

Letters
to
Samantha

Ruth Ellen McCullough

Family
History
KIMES
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Letters to Samantha

by

Ruth Ellen McCullough



Ironside Press
Vero Beach, Florida
1994

THE
WOMAN'S
TRAINING
COLLEGE
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH

Alumni of 1932

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classmates

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for my mother

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Foreword

At some point lost in time, my mother, Elsie Cook Thomas, and her sister, Lura Cook, came into possession of about seventy letters written in 1864-1865 by Josiah H. Kimes, their grandfather and the father of their mother, Ada Kimes Cook. Josiah was serving in the Union Army as a private in the 35th Indiana Regiment and his letters were addressed to his wife Samantha.

Years later, these cherished and fragile letters were passed to me. After reading them, I resolved to find out as much as possible about Josiah Kimes, his antecedents and the circumstances of his military service, and to get his story into print. The process took time, but was most rewarding; I amassed volumes of information from many sources in many places. The encouragement I received from my husband and from countless friends and relatives who learned of the letters spurred me on and I began to feel a great sense of responsibility to complete the work I had begun. Finally, this autumn, everything fell into place.

My thanks to all who helped in one way or another. I would like to thank Michael Martin, grandson of Josiah Kimes' son Byron, and his wife Gladys for the photograph of Josiah's family which appears later in this book, and I also thank Ann Walz, similarly a granddaughter of Josiah's son Byron, for her boundless enthusiasm and very practical support.

Barbara Heglund, who typeset the manuscript, and Dennis Forbes, the owner of Ironside Press who undertook printing and production, applied their talents with skill and understanding; I am greatly indebted to them.

Finally, my love and deepest appreciation must go to my husband Matt, who has shared the joys of search and discovery in musty files, far-flung court houses and remote cemeteries, never losing direction, patience or willingness to promote the business at hand. He has aided and abetted my every effort, provided love and levity, know-how and inspiration. He has my everlasting gratitude for his help in bringing this work to final form, ready for others to share.

Ruth Ellen Thomas McCullough
Vero Beach, Florida
November 1994

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Introduction

This is the story of one man's service as a private in the Union Army during the final year of the Civil War. Josiah Kimes, farmer, of DeKalb County, Indiana was drafted in the call-up of 19 September 1864, one of the last calls for soldiers which was issued by the War Department. He was 28 years old, had been married for five years and had three infant daughters. During the period of his service, he wrote to his wife Samantha almost every day from the time he left home in the fall of 1864 until he was discharged a year later in Texas. These letters tell his story.

They indicate that he reported for duty reluctantly, his spirits sustained mainly by the hope that the war would end soon, in months if not weeks. As his wife was expecting their fourth child, he was concerned about the burdens which would fall on her as she took on the unaccustomed problems of attending to the farm, in addition to caring for their children and for herself. Lighthearted he was not, as the letters reflect.

He describes the soldiers' miseries of hunger and exposure during military campaigns and while on the march, the conditions of camp life, which changed with locale, his wonder at seeing faraway sights and cities, and the drama of certain events, such as the soldiers' reaction to the news of President Lincoln's assassination and the surprise candlelight parade of the troops to the tent of General David S. Stanley on the eve of his departure as their commander. His writings reflect the monotony of army life, the longings of a loving husband and father to return to his home and family, and the emotional distress and physical hardships of having to travel to Texas, another thousand miles from home, after General Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

But at least, if there was an at least, he did not leave home alone. His brother, Daniel M. Kimes, was drafted on the same day, as was a future brother-in-law, Byron A. Woodcox, his wife's uncle, Judson S. Miller, Daniel Kimes' future brother-in-law, James H. Abel, and another five men who were Josiah's neighbors and friends: Isaac Farver, John Leighty, Joseph Koch, Israel Horn and Jacob Yarnell. On 9 November another group from the same township joined the rolls: Uriah Blue, John Bloomfield, Daniel Faunce, Henry M. Horner, William Monroe, David A.

Miller (no relation to Judson M. Miller) and Charles Widney. These men started military service on the same day, served in the same unit in the same places and for the same period of time. Most of them fit the homely profile compiled later of the average Indiana soldier: most of them were farmers who had been born either in Ohio or Indiana and had light complexions, sandy or dark hair, blue or grey eyes and were about five feet eight inches tall. Many of them are referred to by name in Josiah's letters. His story is their story, too.

Unfortunately, the correspondence is one-sided. Josiah refers to events at home about which he hopes to hear from his wife and we do not always know from his letters what or whether she replied. He also refers to fellow soldiers who are known to her but not to the reader. Also, his thoughts wander over many things; he writes as he thinks, never imagining that his words and poetry would appear in print.

To minimize problems created by these circumstances, narrative has been added to clarify events or to identify persons referred to by Josiah. The material for the narrative has been drawn from official army files of the 35th Indiana Regiment and the pension applications of the men who served in it; from the published letters of the chaplain of the regiment; from newspapers of the time and from other contemporary publications; from published Indiana state records; and from unpublished family records and oral histories. Quotations have been used as appropriate to give color and flavor to the scene.

The Kimes Family

Extensive research has been done on the family of one Johannes Keim, born about 1675 in Germany, who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1698 from the town of Speyer in the Rhineland. Johannes Keim settled in the Oley Valley in what is now Berks County, PA. His son Conrad (born about 1733/34) and Conrad's son John Christian (born 1769) both lived there and the latter's son Peter was born there in 1791. It is possible but not yet established beyond doubt that this Peter was the grandfather of Josiah Kimes, whose letters are here presented.

At an unknown date one Peter Kimes, who may or may not be identical with the Peter Keims referred to above, married Nancy Leggett, presumably in Pennsylvania. They were living in Lancaster County, PA when their eldest children were born, including George, father of Josiah Kimes. In about 1814 they moved to Lykens Township (now Williams Township) in Dauphin County where they remained until they moved to Kosciusko County, Indiana in the early or mid 1830s. Both died there, Peter in late 1840 or early 1841 and his widow Nancy between 1850 and 1860.

George Kimes, Josiah's father, was born on 12 January 1812 in

Lancaster County, PA. When he was two years old the family moved to Dauphin County, where he spent his early life. On 17 May 1831 he married Sarah Boyer, born 12 April 1814 in Maryland. A few years later they bought land near Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio where their son Josiah was born in 1836. In 1848 they bought 80 acres of land near Spencerville in Concord Township, DeKalb County, Indiana. George Kimes died there on 17 March 1878 and his wife Sarah on 7 February 1891. They had 12 children, of whom Josiah was the third child and second eldest son.

Josiah H. Kimes, born 5 June 1836 in Wayne County, Ohio was 12 years old when his parents moved to Indiana. On 17 November 1859 he married Samantha Shirts (born 6 January 1843 in Ohio), when she was 16 years old. Three daughters, Cora, Ada and Emma, were born to them in 1861, 1862 and 1863, respectively. They lived on a small farm not far from the home of his parents and she was pregnant with their fourth child at the time Josiah was mustered into the army in the fall of 1864.

Chapter 1

Beginning of Military Life for the Boys from Spencerville 6 October - 28 November 1864

The men from Concord Township, DeKalb County, Indiana whose names were drawn in the Draft of 19 September 1864 were told to report to Kendalville for physical examinations. A total of ten recruits, including Josiah Kimes and his brother Daniel, were passed as physically fit, took the oath of service and on 6 October 1864 were mustered into the army. On 9 November another group from the township was added to the rolls for a total of 17 from that small area. On 10 November the boys from Spencerville, as they came to be called in Josiah's letters, left home for the beginning of their military service.

At Kendalville, a few miles west of Spencerville, the men received the clothing and accoutrements prescribed by government orders: uniforms, knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, blankets, forks and spoons, tin cups and plates. From there they marched to Salem Crossing, a few miles south of Michigan City, and on 12 November arrived in Camp Carrington, the Indiana Draft Rendezvous Center near Indianapolis.

The first of the letters written by Josiah Kimes to his wife Samantha was dated 13 November 1864 and it was followed by another written two days later.

*Camp Carrington, Indianapolis
November 13, 1864*

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines to you. Although I have a great many things to write about and a great deal I would like to tell you, I cannot write them all now. It seems so strange to me that I have to write now when I want to talk with you and the hardest of all that I cannot be with you and my

dear little babies. I never knew how hard it would be to leave them til I had to try it. It seemed as though I could not.

I am midling well now. I have not felt well since I left home but I feel better today. The boys are all well and in good heart. We have good quarters here. We got here yesterday forenoon. We had rather hard times til we got here. It rained all the time til we got to Kendalville and when we got there we were all wet and then we were penned up there without any dry clothes or fire til about midnight. Then we drawed our clothing. We were kept there Thursday evening. Then we were started for Indianapolis. We got as far as Salem Crossing, about eight miles south of Michigan City, about one o'clock that night. Then we had to stay there til ten o'clock next day and I tell you it was rather a hard berth for it was very cold and froze very hard that night and next morning it snowed very fast and we had to ly on the ground or stand up as we chose and take all the storm. We got small rations Thursday evening when we left Kendalville and then we had to go til Saturday 10 o'clock without anything to eat and I did not sleep since I left home til last night. I was nearly worn out but I slept midling well last night though our beds are nothing more than the soft side of boards. I think while we stay here we will fare very well but how long we stay here we cannot tell. I think not very long.

John Wesley¹ is here in camp now. He was here to see us yesterday evening. He is well and hearty.

This is Sunday but it does not seem like Sunday to me. There is so much confusion and every one busy. I do not think we will stay here very long but I do not care how soon they send us on south since I have to stay away from home a year anyhow. This does not seem to me like home at all and you know as well as I do how much I would like to be there but we all have to do the best we can, you as well as me. Samantha, write as soon as you get this. Write a long letter and tell me how you and the children get along since I am gone. Samantha, remember and pray for me your true husband

Josiah Kimes

Direct [your letters] to Camp Carrington, Indianapolis, Ind.

1 John Wesley Shirts, younger brother of Samantha (Shirts) Kimes.

There is so much confusion that I cannot write any more now. I feel well today and in good spirits.

*Camp Carrington, Indianapolis
November 15, 1864*

Dear Samantha,

I again will write to you. I am still well and hope you are the same. I wrote to you day before yesterday and told you to write to me here but I think we will leave here in a day or two. We have orders this morning to have our napsacks, haversacks and canteens all on by seven this morning but what they are a going to do with us I do not know. I think we will have to leave today or tomorrow. I would like to hear from (you) so well but I think you had better not write til we stop again. I think we will go in the 44th Regiment. It is in Chattanooga now. I cannot write much this morning, Samantha, for we are hurried so we had meeting in our barracks last night. I cannot write any more now so goodbye Samantha

J.H. Kimes

Josiah Kimes to Samantha Kimes

But Josiah was not destined for the 44th Indiana. His assignment was to the 35th, a regiment which had been raised in Indiana in the latter half of 1861 and which was composed of men who were primarily of Irish birth or origin. The regiment would have entered service as Indiana's 1st Irish had that designation been acceptable under the Federal system of military nomenclature. Its ranks were filled largely with men having familial or emotional ties to Ireland whom their officers hoped to lead to honor and glory as Irish-American soldiers; they wore green caps provided by the Irish ladies of one town or another; they marched to Irish tunes played by their regimental band; and the banner of green silk which they carried bore the shamrock and "mute harp of Erin" in addition to the American eagle. Their only chaplain was a priest from Notre Dame who had signed on at an early date and thereafter enthusiastically recruited for the regiment among Indiana's Irish Catholics.

The story of the 35th Indiana and its place in history as an Irish regiment is another tale, however. That story may well state that the regiment attracted a certain amount of attention, especially during the early years of its service, for its lack of discipline, but it will most surely

also attest that it served honorably throughout the war. It was mustered into Federal service on 11 December 1861 and for the next two years it was assigned to the 4th Army Corps, initially in the Army of the Ohio and later in the Army of the Cumberland. It saw action in the pursuit of Bragg¹ through Kentucky, in the battles of Stone's River and Snow Hill, in the Middle Tennessee Campaign and in the battle of Chickamauga. In mid-December 1863 the regiment re-enlisted as a veteran organization and returned to Indiana on veteran furlough, its officers carrying out recruitment duties in Irish circles while the men returned to family and friends. It then went back to Tennessee.

After the opening of the Union push to take Atlanta in May 1864, the regiment participated in a number of marches, battles and skirmishes of that campaign. In one battle in particular, the 35th sustained a large number of losses, including its commanding officer. Further losses sustained in July in another skirmish greatly weakened the regiment, with the result that it was sent to do guard duty for a Corps supply train. After receiving reinforcements, it returned to action on 31 August, participated in the two day battle of Jonesborough on 31 August-1 September, and on 9 September was with the Union troops which entered Atlanta. There it remained until it was sent to Pulaski, Tennessee with the rest of the 4th Army Corps.

After the fall of Atlanta, General William T. Sherman had charged General George H. Thomas, commanding officer of the 4th Army Corps, with the task of holding the line of the Tennessee River until his own arrival on the scene in about two months. General Thomas established his headquarters at Pulaski, a small town in Tennessee just above the Alabama line, where the enormity of his task became apparent: the total strength of the troops available to him was less than half of the estimated forces of General John Bell Hood. Many of the regiments being sent to him, including the 35th Indiana, were under strength. It was at this point, when the governors of the appropriate states were hurrying replacements to these regiments, that Josiah Kimes and the boys from Spencerville reached Pulaski.

On 15 November 1864 the Indiana Draft Rendezvous Center in Indianapolis sent the following message to the headquarters of the 4th Army Corps at Pulaski: "Pursuant to telegraphic instructions from the War Department two hundred (200) men at this Rendezvous are hereby assigned to the 35th Indiana Volunteers and are forwarded herewith."

And so it was that on 18 November 1864, a wet cold night, the raw recruits from Spencerville arrived in Pulaski as part of this contingent of 200 soldiers. They were assigned to Co C, 35th Indiana Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland.

1 Brig. Gen. Braxton Bragg, CSA.

Josiah and the other recruits from Indiana arrived in Pulaski at about 10 p.m. on 18 November. It had been raining and the mud was deep and getting deeper. It was intensely cold at night as well, so that conditions at the time of their arrival could hardly have been worse. For the men who were joining the 35th Indiana, however, things were indeed worse than for the regiment as a whole: there were no tents or any other shelter for them, and no guns. It was not until 19 November that the regiment's commanding officer, Colonel Augustus G. Tassin, received permission to go to Nashville to obtain what was needed. He made the trip on the 20th but found on his return that General Thomas had ordered the evacuation of Pulaski by the morning of 23 November in response to movements of General Hood. The 35th Indiana was under marching orders to leave for Columbia, Tennessee.

Confederate forces under General Hood had started to move north on 19 November in weather which made movement of any kind for either side all but impossible. Their strength was overwhelming and after one brief engagement, General Thomas ordered evacuation of Union troops from Pulaski to Columbia "or west of that," where an effort could be made to protect lines of communication to Nashville. He believed that Hood would not be able to move very fast as long as the freezing rain and bad road conditions continued and that it might be possible for Union forces to reach Columbia first. On orders, therefore, 23rd Army Corps troops under General J. D. Cox left Pulaski on 22 November and 4th Army Corps divisions under General David S. Stanley left the following day with the artillery and trains. The 35th Indiana, as part of the 1st Division of the 4th Corps, left with this second contingent in the afternoon of the 23rd. These latter units halted after dark the same day at Lynnville, 13 miles north of Pulaski and about half way to Columbia. When word came during the night that Hood was advancing rapidly on Columbia and probably would reach there on the 24th, General Stanley roused his troops at a little after midnight. By 3 a.m. they were on the move again and by 9 a.m. on 24 November the head of the column had connected with General Cox' troops in front of Columbia, having marched 30 miles since 2 p.m. of the previous day. The 1st Division, to which the 35th Indiana was attached, arrived in Columbia in the evening of the 24th, having marched in the rear of the train. On the following day the 200 new soldiers received their guns, and presumably their tents.

As fast as they arrived and before they had a chance to rest, the troops "threw up breast-works covering the approaches to the south, and the trains were sent across the river." During the day and night of the 24th, they worked to strengthen and improve their entrenchments. However, as Hood had now moved to the east and quite apparently might cross the Duck River at a point or points upriver from the Union positions, orders were issued almost immediately to move the entire

Union command to the north side of the Duck and there take up new defense positions. This was to be accomplished on the night of the 26th and the transfer was indeed started. Efforts were given up, however, when the night proved to be too dark and stormy. Nothing much happened the following day, which was "dull, dreary and cheerless, its monotony broken only by an occasional picket skirmish," but that night the crossing was made, the railroad bridges were burned and the pontoon boats were scuttled. It was a move which took all night and the last picket crossed at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 28th. "It was now the fifth day since the retreat from Pulaski began, and the little army had been exposed day and night to all sorts of weather except sunshine, and had been almost continually on the move."

At 7 a.m. on 28 November the 4th Army Corps "marched to the Franklin pike and into line of battle on the north side of the Duck River about two and a half miles from Columbia, facing the town." It was from Columbia that Josiah Kimes wrote his next letter, which was dated 28 November. It noted that he had been in action and that he had forebodings of a major engagement in the offing.

Near Columbia, Tennessee
November 28, 1864

Dear Samantha,

I will again write a few lines to you to let you know that I am still alive and reasonably well and I hope you are all well. There are some of the boys that came from there sick now. Charles Widny is sick and Daniel Kimes and Henry Horner are not well and a great many more of us are not very well, for a man that can stand the exposure and hardships that we have went through since we left home and not get sick must be more than a common man. John Leighty died last Tuesday while we were at Pulaski and we do not know how soon some more of us must go, too.

We are before the enemy and the cannons are roaring and have been for three days. The Rebs have a strong force here now, full stronger than ours. I think by the way we have had to move we are looking for a big battle every day. We were marched out here in line of battle today but we are not in front now. The cannon have been roaring all forenoon and we do not know how soon a general engagement will take place and we may be called into it. How we will come out the Lord only knows but I hope our

lives may be spared that we may go home to our loving families again. For when I think of my pleasant home and dear family and see the distress and hardships we have to bear down here, tis only then a man can realize what a happy home is. I do not feel homesick at all but I cannot help thinking of home for I have not heard a word from you since I left there. I would like to hear from you so well and know how you are a getting along, for I know you will miss me there. I thought I would write a few lines to you while we are lying here and maybe you will get it, although this is a very poor place to write. Write to me when you can and pray the Lord may spare our lives that we may meet again. I cannot (write) any more now but remain your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Chapter 2

Battle of Franklin 30 November 1864

Union troops had no sooner reached the north bank of the Duck River when it was learned that on the morning of 28 November General Bedford Forrest had crossed the river and was forcing Union cavalry units back on roads leading to Spring Hill, a vital communications hub about 12 miles north of Columbia where roads radiated in several directions including Nashville and Franklin. Rumors and confirmed reports of Confederate crossings of the Duck in the vicinity of Columbia continued all day and there were a number of skirmishes and minor engagements. By 1 o'clock in the morning of the 29th it was clear that the tide could not be stemmed and that enemy infantry probably would start over the river at daylight in force. Accordingly, General Thomas issued orders for another fallback, in line with plans which he had already formulated, i.e., to assemble all of the forces available to him in Tennessee, plus the veteran divisions which were now expected to arrive in three days, on the north side of the Harpeth River at Franklin, "where and when he would be able to fight Hood." When daylight came, Hood himself headed the Confederate troops which were observed crossing the Duck River at a point five miles east of Columbia.

Within an hour after they received their orders to move, early on the morning of the 29th, the 1st and 2nd Divisions of the 4th Army Corps, hence also the 35th Regiment, were under way to Spring Hill en route to Franklin. The weather had cleared and it was a bright autumn day as they moved out along the Franklin Pike, taking with them "all of the baggage and other trains of the entire force present" and the reserve artillery. The 1st Division halted about 4 miles north of Columbia "on the hills on the south bank of Rutherford's Creek" at a point where the turnpike to Franklin crossed. There it remained for the rest of the day, under orders to check any enemy threat at that point. The 2nd Division moved on as convoy to the trains and reserve artillery.

Shortly after noon the 2nd Division arrived at Spring Hill. There, by "double-quicking," the leading brigade was in time to forestall the entry of Forrest's cavalry, which had approached from the east "expecting, unmolested, to occupy the place." All three brigades of the division deployed as they arrived in a semi-circle to the north, east and south of the town, with the trains and artillery parked in the village inside the semi-circle. They numbered less than 4000 men and they were attacked almost immediately by Confederate troops. Two assaults were repelled but a third was more successful, driving one of the brigades back to the village. "While attempting to follow up on this temporary advantage, the enemy, in crossing a wide cornfield, was opened upon with spherical case-shot from eight guns and soon scattered in considerable confusion." As they were seasoned troops, as there were other Confederate forces present in the area in strength who might have come to their aid, and as the attacks were made "under the eye of General Hood himself," this "scattering" has been deemed incomprehensible. Moreover, except for the 2nd Division, which was deployed in a long line to cover the wagons, there were no Union forces within striking distance. The nearest was the 1st Division of the 4th Corps under General Nathan Kimball, located 7 miles away at Rutherford's Creek. The other available troops were still at Duck River. "Thus night closed down upon the solitary division, on whose boldness of action devolved the safety of the whole force which Sherman had spared from his march to the sea to breast the tide of Hood's invasion." Any well placed Confederate brigade, i.e., one "planted squarely across the pike, either south or north of Spring Hill," could have blocked the escape of this division. This did not happen and no real battle took place but it has been said that the afternoon and night of November 29, 1864 might well be set down in the "calendar of lost opportunities."

At 7 p.m. of the same day the movement of the remaining Union forces - a division of the 23rd Corps, the 3rd Division of the 4th Corps and finally the 1st Division of the 4th Corps - was started, albeit in a "protracted" manner. Because of an oversight, no adequate bridge had been constructed over Rutherford's Creek and the troops which reached that point after dark encountered lengthy delays. Finally, however, all three divisions crossed the creek, moved to Spring Hill, and passed rapidly and silently through that village. The wagons and artillery carriages were moved as fast as possible, under convoy, and by 5 a.m. of the 30th, all of the trains had been put on the road and the rear had passed a mile north of Spring Hill. Except for two brief and unsuccessful assaults by Confederate troops, the march continued without interruption to Franklin. The 2nd Division brought up the rear and the same lead brigade which had taken the brunt at Spring Hill again

gallantly saw to it that "not a straggler nor a wagon was left behind."

The head of the column reached the outskirts of Franklin at about the same time the last of the rearguard was leaving Spring Hill. "Here the tired, sleepy, hungry men, who had fought and marched, day and night, for nearly a week, threw up a line of earth-works on a slight eminence which guards the southern approaches of the town, even before they made their coffee. Then the rest of the column, regiment after regiment of worn-out men, filed into the works, and continued the line, til a complete bridge-head, from the river-bank above to the river-bank below, encircled the town." By noon all of the troops had arrived and the wagons were crossing the river.

The day wore on, a "bright autumn day, hazy with the golden light of an Indian summer atmosphere," but by 2 o'clock in the afternoon there were signs that the Confederates were preparing to attack. That attack came at about 4 o'clock, when the enemy line came into view "stretching in battle array and advancing steadily" on the Union works. It has been said that it would be "impossible to exaggerate the fierce energy with which the Confederate soldiers, that short November afternoon, threw themselves against the works, fighting with what seemed like the very madness of despair." "There was not a breath of wind, and the dense smoke settled down upon the field, so that, after the first assault, it was impossible to see at any distance. Through this blinding medium, assault after assault was made, several of the Union officers declaring in their reports that their lines received as many as thirteen attacks." The loss of life was "fearful to contemplate" but in the end the Confederate troops were repulsed at all points. Even Forrest, who had crossed the river at a point east of Franklin, was attacked with such vigor that he returned to the south bank and gave no further trouble. At nightfall victory was complete on every part of the Union lines. Thus ended one of the "fiercest, best contested and most vigorously sustained passages at arms" which occurred during the war, with estimated losses to the enemy in killed, wounded and captured of 6000 or more and comparable Union losses of about 1400.

This was the short but costly battle of Franklin. Even as it ended preparations were under way for the withdrawal and retirement of the Union forces toward Nashville, whose safety had to be ensured. The trains were started as night fell on 30 November. By 3 a.m. on 1 December all of the troops had crossed to the north bank of the Harpeth River and the bridges had been fired. The entire army was on the move that night. Its rear reached Brentwood, 9 miles north of Franklin, by 9 a.m. and there the command halted for an hour to allow the men to cook breakfast. Between 10 and 11 o'clock the march was resumed and the rear of the troops reached the vicinity of Nashville at about 1 p.m. There the Corps reported to General Thomas and moved to designated

positions. As its first duty was to provide for the safety of Nashville, a line of strong entrenchments, "strengthened with an abatis, slashes of timber, and pointed stakes firmly planted in the ground," was constructed along the entire front of the Corps, which stretched for more than two miles on the heights in front of the city.

Josiah Kimes' next letter to Samantha was written from that location on 4 December 1864.

Nashville, Tennessee
December 4, 1864

Dear Samantha,

I will again try to write to you. I am still well as usual and hope you are all well and enjoying yourselves. We came here last Thursday but I do not know how long we will stay here. The Rebel army has followed us up here but I dont think they will drive us any farther for we have a large army here now and are well fortified. But the Rebels are coming up and our boys are shelling them now. Our skirmishers have been fighting with them yesterday and today and we dont know how soon we may have another big battle. We had rather a hard time of it so far for the Rebels were too strong for us. We went first to Pulaski and had to retreat from there here, a distance of 70 or 75 miles, and they kept pretty close to us all the way. We have [had] several little brushes with them on the way and last Wednesday evening we had a very heavy battle at Franklin. I was out on the skirmish line that evening and night and I tell you the bulletts flew thick around us. But I came out safe. We lost 6 or 7 hundred men that night but the Rebels lost that many thousand. Our boys had good breastworks and the Rebels charged on them 15 or 16 times and our men shot them down in great piles. Our troops left there about midnight and us skirmishers were kept there to guard til about 3 o'clock. Then we had to double quick and ketch up and I tell you it was hard work for we have a heavy load to carry. Our load weighs about 70 pounds and when a man carries that all day and stops and fights half the night and then starts and carries it the rest of the night and next day and not much to eat makes hard work of it.

I saw some of the boys in the 129th Regiment the next day after the fight. One of them said Ed Rupert was

killed and Uriah¹ was wounded. We could not talk much for we were in a hurry. They are in camp about 3 or 4 miles from here. I want to go to see them as soon as I can if we stay here.

I believe this is Sunday but it does not seem like Sunday here for we have to work as much as on any day. Samantha, a soldier's life is a hard life. It may suit some but it does not suit me for there is too much swearing and gambling and confusion of all kinds.

I looked for a letter today but got none but I expect to get one some of these days for I know you have wrote before this time. I want you to write often and tell me all the news. You can tell me who is living with you and what you [have] done with the money we got for the horses and everything you can. You have more time to write than I have for you can leave your work and write and I cant. We are kept busy all the time and have to go wherever told. A soldier is nothing but a slave. There is a great many things I would like to know but Samantha, I can write no more just now, so good bye for this time

Josiah Kimes

Samantha, take good care of them dear little babies and tell me how they do.

The two men referred to in Josiah's letter of 4 December were also boys from Spencerville. Ed Rupert and Uriah J. Shirts, Samantha's brother, were both mustered in the army as corporals on 11 January 1864 and were assigned to Company F of the 129th Indiana Regiment-Infantry. Although Josiah made no reference to him, one of his own brothers, Andrew J. Kimes, was also a member of Company F of the 129th, as was Walter Abel, brother of Josiah's friend and comrade in the 35th, James Abel. Moreover, George H. Kimes and Jacob Kimes Jr, first cousins of Josiah, were also serving in the 129th, in Company B and Company G respectively. Men from the 10th District of Indiana had been recruited for the 129th in the winter of 1863/1864. Mustered into service on 1 March 1864 at Michigan City, Indiana, the regiment went into active duty as part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division of the 23rd Army Corps. Soon after Josiah Kimes and the other recruits from Spencerville joined the 35th Indiana Regiment in Tennessee, the 23rd Corps took up duty along with the 4th Corps in the command of

¹ Uriah Shirts, Samantha's younger brother.

General Thomas. The 129th remained in that command until the pursuit of Hood came to an end, and so it was that for a time Josiah was able to give Samantha bits and pieces of news about boys from Spencerville who were assigned to the 129th as well as of those with him in the 35th.

Chapter 3

Battle of Nashville and the Pursuit of Hood 15 - 27 December 1864

The soldiers who had participated in the battle of Franklin reached Nashville on 1 December 1864. On the following day Hood's columns appeared before the town and took up positions on a line of hills parallel to those occupied by the Union army. There they threw up works and prepared to defend their ground. This was how things stood at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 2nd, when a freezing downpour started, portending the onslaught of intensely cold weather hardly propitious for military operations of any kind.

Long awaited veteran Union troops finally had begun to arrive, as had several thousands of other reinforcements. The numerical strength of General Thomas' command increased every day, although what he had in those early days of December was an "ill-assorted and heterogeneous mass, not yet welded into an army and lacking a great proportion of the outfit with which to undertake an aggressive campaign." Horses, wagons, mules, pontoons, everything needed to mobilize an army had to be obtained and it did not exist in Nashville. Such were the circumstances in which General Thomas found himself: positioned opposite an enemy which was in full view, dug in on hills vis-a-vis Union fortifications protecting Nashville; unable to attack because his Union troops were untrained and lacked the basic accoutrements of warfare; and faced with weather that had taken such a turn for the worse that movement of any kind was hazardous in the extreme. To add to his woes, the commanding general of the United States Army, General Ulysses S. Grant, in Center City, Virginia, was telegraphing that he wanted action and he wanted it immediately.

It was a time of enforced delay, however many urgent messages General Grant sent expressing dissatisfaction with General Thomas' failure to attack Hood's forces. In obedience, in fact, to earlier orders of Grant, a large part of the cavalry was unmounted and two divisions had

had to be sent to procure horses and "proper outfit." Wagons were unfinished and mules lacking or unbroken. Pontoons were unmade and pontoniers untrained. The ground was covered with a glare of ice which made all fields and hillsides impassable for horses and scarcely passable for "foot-men." Moreover, in a number of cases, newly assigned officers were strangers to the troops over whom they had been placed. But organization and reorganization of the Union complements continued as fast as possible and the enemy's activities meanwhile were monitored. For about a week, from 2 December until 8 December, the Confederates were observed to be strengthening their lines. There were occasional skirmishes but no engagements of any importance. On the 8th there was a brief exchange of fire a little after noon and shortly thereafter General Thomas issued orders for an attack at daylight on the 10th.

At 9 a.m. on 9 December there was a heavy rain, sleet and snow storm and the "state of the atmosphere" made it impossible to observe the enemy's movements, much less move against him. General Thomas postponed the attack but alerted troops be ready to move once there was a break in the storm. But no break came. The storm continued all that day and part of the next. What little could be seen of the enemy's position indicated that the Confederates were strengthening but not extending their lines. On the 10th the snow and sleet were still on the ground and it was still impossible for horses and men to move. The handling of troops, unit commanders said, would be difficult if not impracticable and any offensive movement would be "feeble." There was desultory to serious picket firing but by the 11th there still had been no basic change and General Thomas decided that no attack could be made until the below-freezing temperatures moderated and the ice, snow and sleet had thawed.

The impasse continued day after day until the 13th, when the wind changed to the southeast and a warming trend set in. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon it was warm enough to thaw a little of the ice and by morning of 14 December the ice and sleet had all but disappeared. The new weather brought new difficulties in the shape and form of mud, however, and a dense fog obscured the enemy lines. There was fog all day but at his afternoon conference with corps commanders General Thomas announced that if the fog lifted by the following day, the attack would be made. He went over his plan of attack with his officers and gave each written orders containing a detailed plan of the battle that was to come. At 7 p.m. he issued orders to division commanders to have everything ready to move at 6 a.m. on 15 December and at 8 p.m. he dictated a telegram to General Henry W. Halleck, Army Chief of Staff in Washington, which read as follows: "The ice having melted away today, the enemy will be attacked tomorrow morning."

Reveille was sounded on 15 December at 4 a.m. "in most of the

camps" and the troops slowly came to life. They had breakfast and broke up their camps. The fog had not yet lifted at that hour, however, and at 6 was still so dense that the troops could not be formed. Then it slowly dissipated and by 9 a.m. it had almost cleared away. The day became increasingly warm and sunny, the troops formed up slowly during the rest of the morning and some time after noon the order to charge was sounded.

The battle of Nashville was fought on the 15th and 16th of December 1864. By the end of day one, Hood's army had been driven out of its positions to new defense lines roughly two miles south, or to the rear, of the positions which it had held the previous day and by midnight Washington was sending congratulatory messages to cheer and encourage General Thomas and his officers and men. At the beginning of day two, it was found that Hood, "not daunted by reverses," had set his troops to work during the night preparing for the next day's struggle. They had built new lines which were shorter and far more formidable than those which they had just been forced to abandon. The battle was renewed and by the end of the second day, the Confederates had been completely routed from all of their positions.

For the next ten days Union troops pursued Hood's army until they had chased the Confederate troops across the Tennessee River, indeed more than carrying out General Sherman's instructions to "hold the line of the Tennessee" until his return. It was noted at the time that Hood had triumphantly begun his march north about a month before and that "now, in his disastrous retreat, he was leaving behind him, as prisoners or deserters, a larger number of men than General Thomas had been able to place at Pulaski to hinder his advance - to say nothing of the terrible losses in killed at Franklin." The loss to the Union army in all its fighting, from the Tennessee River to Nashville and back again, was less than 6000 killed and missing. "At so small a cost, counting the chances of war, the whole Northwest was saved from an invasion which, if Hood had succeeded, would have more than neutralized all Sherman's successes in Georgia and the Carolinas."

The participation of the 35th Indiana Regiment in the battle of Nashville and its movements immediately afterwards were recounted by its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Augustus G. Tassin, in his report of 19 December 1864. His report read as follows:

"On the evening of the 14th instant, while in front of Nashville, I received orders to be ready to move at 6 o'clock the next morning, with three days' rations in haversacks and each man supplied with sixty rounds of ammunition. On the morning of the 15th moved outside of our works in front of the city, and formed in line of battle, my regiment being in the second line of our brigade, which was held in reserve, the

Twenty-third Kentucky on my right, and the Ninety-sixth Illinois on the left. Our front line having carried the enemy's works and still advancing, our brigade moved forward in support until after dark, when we went into camp about three miles and a half from Nashville, on the right of the Granny White pike, and between it and the Hillsborough pike. Next day (December 16) broke camp at daylight, and advanced in line of battle upon the enemy, who had formed a new line of defense about two miles in the rear of the works taken by our troops on the preceding day. The Thirty-fifth Indiana held the center of the second line of the brigade, with the One Hundred and Fifteenth Illinois on the right and the Twenty-third Kentucky on the left; in this order we gradually advanced until the rebel works came in view, when a rebel battery opened on our front line. The brigade being at a halt, we remained in this position exposed to the fire of the enemy's artillery, which was kept up irregularly on our line. While in this position several shots came tearing through my regiment, two of which killed 2 men and mortally wounded 2 others. About 4 p.m. our front line was ordered to charge, and carrying the enemy's works, the second line moved rapidly in support. The enemy broke and fled in confusion, our brigade rapidly pursuing in the same order as they formed in the morning, until dark, when we halted and bivouacked about eight miles from Nashville, 300 yards on the right of the Franklin pike. Next morning (the 27th) took the line of march for Franklin, and camped about one mile from the town, there to wait until a bridge could be constructed across the Harpeth River for the troops to cross. Crossed the river next morning, marched eighteen miles, and camped about three miles beyond Spring Hill, on the right of the Columbia pike.

"My officers and men behaved gallantly. Although majority of the men of my regiment are recruits they did well. Great praise is due to Father Cooney¹ for his constant presence in the field, attending to the wants of the wounded and cheering us all by his presence."

In the days of waiting before the actual start of the battle of Nashville, orders were issued (by the headquarters of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 4th Army Corps, dated 12 December), attaching the 35th Indiana Regiment for duty with the Pontoon Train of the Army of the Cumberland. Josiah Kimes' next letter was written from Columbia,

1 Father Peter Paul Cooney, Chaplain of the 35th Indiana Regiment.

Tennessee and in it he described the fighting in which the 35th had been engaged and referred to its new assignment.

*Columbia, Tennessee
Sunday, Christmas, December 25, 1864*

Dear Samantha,

I will again write a few lines to you. I am still alive and well and I hope you are all enjoying the same blessing. This is Christmas day, I believe, but I am not at home to enjoy it with you. I will write a letter and this is all the gift I can give you now but if I was at home we would have a nice time. As I am not you must enjoy yourselves the best you can and I do hope you do enjoy yourselves well.

One day is just like another here in the army. If a man did not count very close he could not tell when Sunday came and if he could tell in any other way it would be because he had more hard work to do. We have been in some very hard battles since I last wrote to you but my life has been spared through all so far and I am very thankful to the Lord for it. I hope he will spare my life that I may again return home to my dear family.

The boys that came from there are all well. In the second day's fighting near Nashville there was two men killed in our company close by my side. They was killed with cannon balls. We were under a very heavy artillery fire for a long time that day. The shells and balls came very close and fast. We could feel the wind as they passed over us. We were ordered to lie down and had to lie there for several hours and the Rebs were shooting all the while. Several of their balls struck the ground before us and bounded over us but toward evening of that day the Rebel lines gave way and we gained a great victory over Hood's army. We have followed them this far and our army is still following them up. Our regiment is detached to guard pontoon bridges and so we had to stop here at Columbia to guard pontoon bridges across Duck River. We cannot tell how long we still stay here but I do not think we will stop very long. You had better just direct your letters to the 35th Regiment Inf. Volunteers via Nashville, as we may not be with our brigade and division for some time.

I have got no letters from home yet and I dont know if I shall but I will keep on looking. Maybe I will get some

after a while for I know you do write to me. When you write tell me how you got your hogs butchered and whether they got fat or not and about them beeves and whether Jessee¹ payed them other 30 dollars and what you done with the money we got for the horses and a great many other things I would like to know. But Samantha, I cannot write any more just now and you must excuse this poor letter as a Christmas gift for today. I would be very glad to get one from you.

From your best friend and husband

Josiah Kimes
to
Samantha Kimes

On 29 December 1864 General Thomas issued general orders which announced the end of the campaign to repel the invasion of Tennessee by Confederate troops. He was most fulsome in his praise and he closed on the note that a short time would now be given to the troops "to prepare to continue the work so nobly begun." The immediate respite was indeed short, as orders went down the line from headquarters on the same day for 4th Army Corps commanders to prepare their troops to march "to Huntsville, Athens, and vicinity, and there go into camp for the winter, and attend to the reorganization of your command and fitting it generally for an early spring campaign." Lieutenant Colonel Tassin's orders were for the 35th Indiana to take up the pontoon bridges at Columbia as soon as the trestle bridge over the Duck River was completed, move them to Elkton and there put them down across the Elk River. The move to Elkton was accomplished during the next two days, with an interim stop at Pulaski. As of 2 January 1865 the regiment was under orders to take the bridges up again and move them to Huntsville as soon as the trains and troops of the 4th Corps had passed Elkton. At Huntsville Lt. Col. Tassin was to repair and refit the train so that it would be ready for service.

Josiah Kimes' next letters were written from Elkton.

Elkton, Tennessee
Friday, January 6, 1865

Dear Family,

I will again write a few lines to you. I am still alive

¹ Jessee Headley, a neighbor.

and well and I do hope you are all well, too. I have not got any letters yet nor heard from home for so long that I really dont know whether I have a family or not but I hope and trust you are all alive and well yet. It has not been so awful long since I left home but it does seem like a very long time to me for I would like to see you all so well and that poor little Emma. How I would like to be there to see and play with her. Poor little babies. I have often wondered whether they miss me. I know you do.

I think a great deal about home but still I am not afraid of getting homesick for I have stood it a great deal better than I expected to. But I think of the time (if we are permitted to live so long) when I shall return home again and enjoy the pleasures of a happy home and of being with my dear family again. But the time will soon slip by for one fourth of the year is gone already and nine months will soon slip by. I am a good deal fleshier than I was when I left home and the rest of the boys are all getting fat, too. We have plenty to eat just now. We have been out a foraging some lately and we have had some fresh pork and some meal and molasses and some honey and we have lived very well for a week or two. We are here at Elk River now about 90 miles from Nashville but we have orders to start tomorrow for Huntsville, Alabama and we will have a hard time of it again for it rained all day and the roads are very muddy.

Our regiment has been detailed as pontooners we have been with the bridges for several weeks now and I think we will like it midling well after we get used to the business. We have a great deal of duty to do but I believe I would rather do it than to charge breastworks for there is not so many bullets flying around. Our brigade has gone on with the rest of the Fourth Corps and our regiment stayed with the pontoon bridges across Duck River at Columbia and from there we came here and stayed till the troops are all across this river. Tomorrow they say we go somewhere else. I do not know where for that is the way with a soldier. They never know where they are a going till they get there.

Daniel Faunce is not with us now. We have not seen him for several weeks. He was detailed at division headquarters and has went on with the division while we were at Columbia. The 129th regiment was camped about half a mile from us and we saw the boys almost every day.

They had heard nothing of Uriah¹ for some time but they thought he was to Louisville.

Elk River, Tennessee
Sunday, January 8, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will still keep on writing letters to you but I do not know whether you get them or not for I have not got any from home yet nor even heard from there. If you have got all that I wrote you must have quite a pile by this time for I have wrote as often as once a week. Our regiment has got no mail since it left the brigade. I think it has gone on there and when we ketch up we will get our letters. I hope so at least for I would give almost any thing to get a letter from you.

We did not leave here yesterday as we expected to but I think we will go before long.

I would like to know whether it has been very cold there this winter and have often wondered whether you lived comfortable or not. Samantha, if you need clothes or any thing you must just take of that money that we got for the team and get every thing you need and if it is loaned out maybe you can borrow some of Father till you can get it. You must make yourself as comfortable as you can and if Emily² is living with you you must pay her what is right. I wish I knew how you are getting along. It is now two months since I have seen or even heard from you and it seems like a long time.

I am well and hearty and the rest of the boys are all right and I hope and trust you are all well and enjoying yourselves comfortably. Samantha, write often and I certainly will get some letters after a while.

Good bye for this time.

Josiah Kimes
to
Samantha Kimes

The 35th Indiana Regiment remained at Elkton until 12 January

1 Uriah Shirts, Samantha's brother.

2 Emily Shirts, younger sister of Samantha (Shirts) Kimes.

1865 when they left at 6 a.m. for Huntsville. The regiment marched as a column, preceded by its "pioneers," the engineers who went ahead to make any necessary road repairs and creek crossings, and followed by a rear guard under orders to "bring up all stragglers at the point of the bayonet if need be." The knapsacks of the men were carried in the wagons which followed in the rear of the column under the "special attention" of four men assigned to each wagon and team. By 15 January they had arrived at Huntsville.

Chapter 4

Winter Quarters at Huntsville, Alabama Mid-January - Mid-March 1865

As the 35th Indiana Regiment went into winter quarters at Huntsville, Josiah Kimes was still well and hearty, as he kept assuring Samantha, and not at all homesick - a term which apparently had a connotation for him of physical illness, as he did nothing if not spell out how much he longed for home and family. What he was yet to come to grips with was the routine disorder and privations of army life and the quirk of fate which placed him in a regiment which had been formed originally as an Irish fighting unit. He had a lot of time to reflect on the miseries of his stomach and soul, the latter generally and sometime specifically attributable in his mind to the baser qualities of his Irish comrades in arms and their officers and even to the not-so-base qualities of the "old priest" who tended to their spiritual needs but in no way satisfied his. He made do as best he could, did his duty as required, and endeavored to retain control of his own soul according to his own convictions.

Josiah next wrote Samantha from Huntsville, Alabama on 15 January 1865.

*Camp near Huntsville Alabama
January 15, 1865*

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few lines to you. I got two letters from you yesterday and you might well know how glad I was to hear from you and to hear that you were all well. One was dated December 13 and the other 17. You wrote that you got two letters that week and they had no directions in them. Samantha, I will tell you the reason

and I hope that you will not think I am crazy or so homesick that I forgot it. I wrote two or three when we first got to the regiment at Pulaski and wrote the full directions in them but I suppose you did not get them. I thought it was not necessary to write the directions in all my letters for if you had got the first ones you would have got the directions.

Samantha, we got no letters till yesterday and you ought to have heard the boys holler when they saw mail come to the regiment for they all were glad to see letters coming from their friends and I know I was. You wrote in your letter that you heard I was homesick. Samantha, I am very sorry that you heard so for there is not a word of truth in it for I have not felt homesick in the least. I have thought of my dear family a great deal but have not been homesick at all and I would like to have you write to me how you heard it for it is not so.

Samantha, you wrote that you sold the bobs and drag. It is all right. I am glad you have sold them but I think you had better not sell the cradle yet for we may want it next harvest. I am sorry that Hall¹ has got that money for I heard long ago that John Widny had a mortage on his farm but I suppose Father did not know it. But if he has got good security on it, it will be safe enough and if he has not he must get it for if he does not I expect to have a great deal of trouble to collect it and may have to lose it for he owes a great deal and may never be able to pay it. Tell Father right off and see to it and write to me how it is.

Samantha, I am still well and hearty as ever and I hope you are all well. You wrote about sending your photographs to me. I would like very well to have them but it will cost you so much that I do not know what to say about it and I do not know as I would get them if you did send them for it may get lost. If you got them taken you had better keep them. If you can as well as not, send me a few stamps. I wish you would. I have some yet but they had got wet so much that they are all spoiled.

The boys that are here are all right and in good spirits. We left Elk River four days ago and are within 12 miles of the Tennessee River now. I do not know which way we will go from here.

1 Hall has not been identified; probably a neighbor.

Samantha, keep in good cheer and live as happy as you can and do not forget to pray and live right. Pray for me that I may again be permitted to return home to my dear family. Samantha, write often for a letter from home is worth more than money.

Direct to Co C 35th Reg Ind Vol Via of Nashville, Tennessee

Josiah
To
Samantha Kimes

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
January 22, 1865

Dear Family,

I will again try to write a few lines to you. I have been waiting for the last week and expecting a letter from you and thought I would write an answer to it but as I have not got any I will write one to you anyhow.

I am still alive and well and I do hope you are all enjoying the best of health. The rest of the boys here are all well as common. We have been putting up little huts for the last few days. We had orders to put up winter quarters and I think it may be we will stay here a short while but we cant tell much about it nor either do I care. It is all the same thing anyhow for we thought when we got here where the railroad was open through to Nashville we would get our mail regular and more rations but we were sadly mistaken for there has been no mail come to the regiment since a week ago yesterday and our rations are cut down to about half rations. We get from six to eight crackers to do us three days and about half a pound of pork and some sugar and coffee. We can easy eat our three days rations in one and yesterday was fast day to us for we had nothing to eat but a little parched corn. While we were back at Elk River we had a plenty to eat for we could forage some and buy some and draw some and in that way we had a plenty. But here foraging is played out for it is against orders. There is no forage within twelve to sixteen miles and there is nothing to buy but a few corn dodgers from the negroes and they sell them so high that we can not afford to buy them. They sell a cake about as large as your hand for ten cents and that is nothing but meal and water without any

salt. Although they taste well we can not buy for money is too near played out. Byron Woodcox said he was so near starved to death that folks might as well think he was dead. I hope you have a plenty to live on and if you need any thing you must try and get some money of Father. You must not suffer for any thing. I think the reason why we do not get more rations is because the quartermaster and officers are trying to fill their pockets and take it off the privates. The officers and old soldiers of this regiment are nearly all Catholics and Irish at that; our Colonel is a Frenchman. The Captain of our company is a raw recruit and as mean a man, if I may so call him, as I ever saw. He is drunk when ever he can get whiskey and is always in passion and cursing and swearing at his men and calling them all kinds of names. It seems very hard for men that have never been used to such treatment to come under such officers. They go to the old priest¹ every morning to get forgiven and then curse and swear the rest of the day. I did not go to their meeting today because I have no confidence in such men nor in such a way of doing business. I am trying to live as near right as I can and I put my trust in my dear Redeemer for His name is more precious to me than ever before for I know he has been very merciful to me that I am yet alive.

Samantha, pray for me that I may ever live and do right for here is nothing but swearing and all kinds of wickedness. Many a time my heart is sickened to see the wickedness there is in the army and to hear so much cursing and swearing around us. Samantha, live right and pray for me.

Josiah Kimes

Dear Samantha,

I would like so well to see you and them sweet little babies for it seems like a long time since I have seen you but it has been only a little over two months and when I look ahead and see how long it will be till I can see you again it seems like a very long time. But Samantha, the time is slipping by and the year will soon go round and if the Lord spares our lives we shall see each other again. We

1 Father Peter Paul Cooney, Chaplain of the 35th Indiana Regiment.

must put our trust in the Lord and live in hope of meeting again.

Samantha, if I could only get a letter every week it would be a great comfort to me for you dont believe how glad I was when I got them two letters a week ago yesterday to hear you were all well. I do not know why we do not get our letters for I know you wrote one every week since we came to the regt and I know you do not get them all for when you wrote to me you had not got the two or three first ones that I wrote at Pulaski. But dear Samantha, write one every week and I will do the same and I do hope your health is better than it used to be. Samantha, when you write tell me whether there is security on them notes of Halls and who it is. Tell me all the news you can and how you got along butchering and how you get your wood cut and whether Emily is living with you or not.

Samantha, you must see Mr Deardorff¹ about getting that house or if you can get any other that suits you had better do so. But you must see to it in time and write me all about it and how much rent you will have to pay and if you can you had better try and get a patch plowed and raise a few potatoes and a little corn, that is if you have anybody living with you. But you must take good care of yourself and the children and it may be I will get home some time. The Lord only knows but we will trust in him.

Dear Samantha, I can not write any more just now and you must excuse my poor writing and mistakes for I have no chance to write down here like we have at home for we have to sit down on the ground or a log and write on our knee but

SAMANTHA
REMEMBER AND
WRITE SOON.

JOSIAH KIMES
TO
SAMANTHA KIMES

Direct to Co C 35th Vol by the
way of Nashville, Tennessee

¹ Deardorff has not been identified.

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
8 o'clock Saturday night
January 28 in the year of our Lord 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will again try to write a few lines to you. I am still alive and reasonably well and this evening finds me comfortably situated in our splended mansion way down here in Alabama. I know you would like to know how we are and where we are. We are living in a house and I tell you it seems quite comfortable. Our house is 7 by 10 feet square and is made of puncheon split out of logs and is covered with our tents and is dobed with mud so it is warm. We have a nice brier chimney and fireplace to it and it contains a kitchen and dining room and parlor and bedroom and woodhouse. The names of those that dwell in it are Mr James Abel & Jacob Yarnell, Byron Woodcox and Daniel M. Kimes and Myself. We just finished it today and this evening we eat around our kitchen fire and had quite a social chat. And now since the rest of the boys are gone to bed I thought I would write a letter home to my dear family for tomorrow will be a busy day again and we will have to police and clean all our streets and tents. Then inspection of arms at half past eight and church from nine to eleven (and the Colonel has issued orders that we have all got to attend church; well, they can make me go to their Catholic church but they cant make me believe only what I please and I would a great deal rather stay in my tent and read my testament) and in the afternoon there will be inspection of our quarters and dress parade and besides roll call three times during the day, which will take up most of the day.

The boys are all well except some of us have got hard colds. I have a bad cold just now but I think I will get over it in a few days.

Sunday morning, the 29th

As I have a little spare time I will try and finish my letter. We have had inspection today and our mess have got the praise of having the best shanty in the regiment which is so much for us if we are conscripts. We were to church today and had a full blooded Catholic sermon. The old priest explained Catholicism all out and I think a great

deal less of it than I did before.

I do not know how long we will get to stay here but I hope they will let us stay here all winter since we are midling well fixed and can live midling comfortably providing we get enough to eat. We have rumors here of peace but I do not believe them. We do not get much news here and dont know what is a going on. We have had no mail since two weeks ago yesterday but I think we will get some before long. We do not know where the 129th regt is. We have not seen nor heard any thing of it since we left Columbia.

Well, Samantha, I dont think of any thing just now to write to you so I guess I had better quit. If I was there I would have a great deal to tell you and would like to help you eat up your nicnacs, such as sausages and beef biscuit and apple butter and the like but since I am not there you must eat enough for both and that will do.

Samantha, write a letter every week and I guess I will get them after a while. Write all the news you can. Tell me how you all get along and what news there is about the war for you know more about it than we do here. We dont know much, only what we see. I wrote to Father and Jacob¹ and to Beams¹ and have not got an answer from any of them yet but perhaps I will get some by and by. But good bye for this time

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

Direct your letters to Co C 35th regiment Ind Vol Inf via of
Nashville, Tennessee

Huntsville, Alabama
February 2, 1865

Dear Family,

I received a letter from you this morning. It was dated January 22 and I was very glad to hear from you and especially to hear that you was well. This is the third letter I have got from you but I dont think it is the third one you

¹ Josiah refers to his brother, Jacob Kimes, and to his sister and her husband, Elizabeth (Kimes) Beam and David Beam.

have wrote for the others were wrote more than a week before this one and I know you write oftener than that. I write one every week and sometimes one between but I dont think you get them all. When you write again tell me how many you have got and the date and where they was wrote.

I am well and getting fat. You would hardly know me if I was to come home now. Dear Samantha, I am very sorry to know that you take it so awful hard because I am away from home. Samantha, you must not fret so much about me for your health is very poor and I am afraid if you trouble yourself so much it will get still worse. You must go around a visiting when ever you can and the time will pass off faster. I know it is hard for you to have to live alone and to take care of the children but Samantha, you made me promise to write to you and tell you every thing just as it was and I have done so. I dont want you to trouble yourself about me at all for I can get along where any body else can, so now Samantha, dont fret any more about me.

We have a great deal of duty to do. We are on guard every other day and when we are off we have to drill but we live quite comfortable here excepting we do not draw rations enough. We only draw a little over half rations but if we have money we can buy some. I know we wont starve but I have an awful appetite and could almost eat an iron wedge if it was stewed a little. I am getting fatter and heavier every day and a great deal better looking and if you dont believe it just come down here and see.

February 3

All right this morning and as lazy as ever. Well, Samantha, I did not get time to finish my letter yesterday for I was on guard and did not have much time to write but I will try and finish it today.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter about Ura¹ going to town and I was glad to think that he had got home again and wonder whether he is discharged or on furlough.

Well, Samantha, I do not expect to get home until my time is out and that will soon slip round for one third of the year is almost gone. There are rumors of the war

1 Uriah J. Shirts, Samantha's brother.

closing soon but we can not tell much about it here for we do not get much news here and do not know what is a going on. Samantha, I dont think this regiment will have much more fighting to do for I think we will stay with the pontoons. We got two hundred more recruits this week. The old Irish regiment is getting to be quite a regiment but we have to sift it hard to find the Irish now. There is no reble army close here now and our army that was here is divided or split up and some sent one place and some another.

Samantha, I have wrote a few verses of poetry and I will send it to you. It is not very well done but it may be you would like to read it. I would like to send you something but dear Samantha, I have nothing to send. But Samantha, keep in good spirits and live in hope and make yourself as comfortable as you can and I will do the same. When I get to thinking how I worked and tryed to get things so we could live happy and comfortable and now I am here so far away and cant even see my dear family I can not help but feel bad. But dear Samantha, let us live and do right and every thing will come out right in the end. I can not write any more just now. Samantha, pray for your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Samantha, you must excuse this poor writing for my hand trembles so that I cant write very good but may be you can read it

Our journey through this world seems dreary
 And they who travel along get weary
 But there is one I know will cheer me
 While here on earth we stay

Close to my heart that one adheres
 To cherish hope and banish fears
 And ever shall through coming years
 Till death will have his sway

That dearest one I hope to cherish
 Each care and sorrow try to banish
 And every joy and comfort nourish
 And this make happy days

For at best this world has many a care
 And when most happy sorrow may be near
 But with each other we will share
 And never ! never stray

How long we'll journey here is yet unknown
 But the summons will surely come
 And then we'll go to our better time
 And leave this world of clay

By J. H. Kimes

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
 February 6, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few lines to you. I am still alive and well. The mail came in night before last and I am glad to tell you that it brought five letters for me: one from Father and one from Harvey¹ and three from you. Although I got one last Thursday that was wrote since they were, still I was very glad to get them and I thought I would write a few lines in answer to them. You must excuse me for not writing yesterday for I was on guard yesterday and last night so I could not write. Today I will try and write a little but cant write much.

The boys are all well as common and enjoying pleasures of soldiering as well as usual. The weather is quite cold today although a few days ago it was very warm so that we were the most comfortable in our shirt sleeves.

Samantha, I wrote in the last letter that you might send me a dollar or two of money but our descriptive list has come and we will draw some pay as soon as the regiment get payed and I think that will be before long so I think you had better not send any until I write to you again.

Well, Samantha, I do not think of any thing new to write to you for I wrote a letter to you only a few days ago and have wrote one to Father today and you can see that when they get it.

But dear Samantha, try and forget all your troubles and live as happy as possible. Do not worry any more about me for the time will soon slip round when (if the

1 Harvey Kimes, Josiah's brother.

Lord spares our lives) we will see each other again.

Dear Samantha, remember and pray for me, your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes
Cora Kimes, Ada Kimes & Emma Kimes

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
Monday night, February 6, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I wrote a letter today and just got it sealed up when in come a letter from you. I had no time to write any more then so I thought I would not send it but would write some more tonight. It was dated January 28 and Samantha, you can hardly believe how glad I am to get letters from home and hear that you are all well.

Samantha, I am well and have never felt any better (as far as health is concerned) than I have for the last few weeks. If I was at home I know I would enjoy myself better but I put my trust in the Lord and hope the time will come when I can be at home again.

You wrote in your letter that you was sorry you sold them sleds and drag. You need not be sorry for I am glad you have sold them for if I get home next summer I dont think I will need them.

Tuesday, February 7

Samantha, I was trying to write last night but I was so sleepy that I could not write much. I was on guard the night before and did not get much sleep but today I will write a little more.

We are all well yet. There is about two or three inches of snow here today.

Samantha, you wanted me to write to you about planting some corn. Well, Samantha, I dont think you had better try to plant any for I know you dont do any thing at it yourself. You must take good care of yourself and Samantha, do not worry nor trouble yourself so much. Samantha, you can write any thing you want for the boys do not get to see my letters and you can write any thing you wish and I wish you would tell me every thing you can.

Dear Samantha, I feel very sorry and bad that things are as you say and I was in hopes that it was not so. I cannot help but feel bad when I think how much trouble you have to bear but Dear Samantha, we must look forward for better days and try and live right so that when our troubles on earth are over we can go where sorrow never can come.

Samantha, I think of Emma so much. Poor little baby. How I would like to see her. But I think I will see you all again for I dont think we will have any more fighting to do. I think we will stay with the pontoons and we will not have it so hard for when we march we will have our napsacks hauled. I am glad we are detailed to them

Samantha, Del Andress¹ owed us just three dollars but Samantha, if they want to show themselves and keep that half dollar do not say any thing to them about it and let them keep it. Try and get along without any fuss with any one. I am sorry that Father opened your letters for I dont think it looks well nor neither have they any right to. Samantha, I can direct my letters to Cles Corners but it will take a week longer til you get them for they will go round by Noristown and down through Spencerville to Fort Wayne and then up to Coles but I will do as you would rather.

I must stop writing. Samantha, keep in good cheer and remember me your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes to Samantha Kimes
Cora Kimes, Ada Kimes, Emma Kimes

A Soldiers Thought

The days are passing slowly by
And I a pilgrim stranger
Would not detain them as they fly
Those days of toil and danger

Chorus:

For we have come away from home
By the army's waves were driven
And when we hear the battle's roar
We wish for home and heaven.

1 Del Andress has not been identified; possibly related to David Andress, who served in the 44th Indiana Regiment.

But with an eye of faith we see
 Our distant home discerning
 And these are they those friends so dear
 For which our hearts are burning.

Chorus:

For we have come away from home
 By the army's waves were driven
 And when we hear the battle's roar
 We wish for home and heaven

Should coming days be cold and dark
 And hours be sad and lonely
 Yet there will be a time when we
 May rest at home most sweetly.

Chorus:

For we have come away from home
 By the army's waves were driven
 And when we hear the battle's roar
 We wish for home and heaven.

Let sorrow's rudest tempest blow
 Each chord on earth to sever
 Our friends say come and there's our home
 Forever O Forever

Chorus:

For we have come away from home
 By the army's waves were driven
 And when we hear the battle's roar
 We wish for home and heaven.

Oh yes we'll come to dwell at home
 And see those hours of pleasure
 When we are free we'll happy be
 To see our earthly treasures.

by J. H. Kimes
 To Samantha Kimes

Huntsville, Alabama
 February 10, 1865

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
9 o'clock Saturday night
February 11, 1865

My Dear Wife,

I will try to write a few lines to you tonight. I am still well as common and I do hope you are all alive and well yet for there is scarcely a day passed but what some of our fellow soldiers hear the sad news that some of their dear friends have died. Yesterday there was one of our men got a letter that his wife was dead - that while she was out feeding the strawstack fell on her and killed her. O Samantha, how much it made me think of you and of home and wonder whether you were alive and well yet.

Well, Samantha, I am still getting along as well as can be expected but I do wish I could see you all tonight. O how happy we would be.

Well, this has been a busy day for me. This forenoon I was washing for I was on guard yesterday and did not have to drill this forenoon. We are allowed to rest til noon when we come off guard and have been up the night before and so I thought I would wash my clothes. I have washed every week since we have been here for I dont like to wear dirty clothes. This afternoon I was detailed to go to town with two others to bring up one of the boys that belonged to this regt but we hunted all over town and could not find him. We got back just at dark and so I am very tired tonight but the boys are all gone to bed and so I thought I would write to you.

Well, Samantha, I bought a loaf of light bread this afternoon when I was to town and so I had a midling good supper. I also bought a candle so that I could write a while tonight for I do not get sleepy as I used to when I was at home but I stay up almost every night till eleven and sometimes till twelve o'clock for there is so much confusion and noise and cursing and swearing going on through the day that I love to sit up by the fire at night when all is still and read my testament and think of those dear ones at home. I would often like to write some at night but I had no candle so I can not see to write.

Well, Samantha, I think we will draw a couple of months pay in a few days and if we do I will send most of it home if I get a chance and I want you to write again and tell me whether you got my clothes that I left at

Hadsells¹. I wrote once before about it but I dont think you got the letter. And write whether there is feed enough to winter the cows and whether there is any more corn and how your herd do. I think you had better try and get a couple of pigs this spring if you can. Tell me whether the straw is all gone.

Samantha, that vest you made for me and them gloves that Harriet² knit have been of great service for they were just the things I needed this winter. But while we were at Duck River I was on the boat pumping and one of the gloves fell out of my pocket and the last I saw of it it was sailing down the river.

Samantha, I dont think you will have much trouble to keep me awake in the evenings for a while after I get home. I get tired and weary through the day but when night comes my mind is busy and I dont feel a bit sleepy. When I get home I will have a great many things to tell you that I cannot very well write to you.

The boys are all well. Judson³ is well and fat as ever.

Dear Samantha, I dont think of any thing else to write just now but Samantha, let us put our trust in Him who rules all things and the time may come when we will see each other again. Pray for me your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Good night.

Direct [letters] as before.

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
February 14, 1865

Dear Samantha.

I received your letter of the 5th today and was very glad to hear from home again but am sorry to hear that you was sick. I do hope you are well by this time. I am still sound and well as ever and the rest of the boys are all well as common.

1 Hadsell possibly is Rev. James Hadsell, first minister of the Disciples of Christ Church in DeKalb Co. Indiana.

2 Harriet probably is Harriett Shirts, Samantha's younger sister.

3 Judson Miller, Samantha's uncle.

Well, Samantha, you wrote a good and long letter and I am glad of it for I like to read long letters from you. Although I had a letter before that had the same news that part of this had, still I loved to read it.

Well, we have not drawed any money yet but we have signed the muster and I think we will see that iron chest come along before long. But I dont think we will get more than two months pay and when I get some money I think I will try to get a pass and go to town and get my photograph taken, that is if we stay here long enough, and if I get them taken I will send them home to you for I know you would like to see how I look with soldiers clothes on and whether I look as I used to while at home.

Well, Samantha, I have nothing new to write this time. The weather has been midling cold. The ground had been frozen very hard for a week or more but yesterday and today it is raining and the days pass away slow and deary. This is nothing new going on but let it rain for we are in the dry now only when we are out on guard and our shanty is warm so that we live midling comfortable. But Samantha, you must excuse this poor letter for this time. Dear Samantha, write as often as you can and tell me who is drafted for I am anctious to hear.

Well, Cora and Ada, you must be good little girls and help Ma work and Pa will come home again to see you sometime.

Good bye

Dear Samantha, remember me your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Samantha, you need not send me any paper nor envelopes for we can buy them here now almost as cheap as you can there. Samantha, I will write soon again.

Huntsville, Alabama
Camp 35th Reg Ind Pontooners
February 16, 1865

My Dear Wife,

I received your letter today that was dated February 8th and found in it this sheet of paper and an envelope

and one dollar bill. But the best of all it stated that you was well again for I was very sorry when I got your letter and heard that you was sick. I hope and trust you are all well now. I have not been very well for the last two days but this morning I feel midling well again. The rest of the boys are all well as usual.

Well, Samantha, we have not got any pay yet but we expect a little before long, perhaps in a day or two. I feel very thankful for that dollar but Samantha, may be you needed it yourself. It dont seem right for me to use it but since it is here I will use it.

If I could get off in the morning I would like go to town and buy me a little bread and butter for we have no meat now and I get so tired of hard tack and coffee. We cant afford to buy mutch for every thing is so dear. Butter sells at one dollar a pound and you know at that rate we cant buy a big pile for a dollar. But I will be on guard tomorrow, I think, so that I cant go to town and maybe I could not get a pass anyhow.

I got a letter from John W.¹ today. He is at Nashville. He says he is well and fat but he says they have to live on short rations.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter that you thought of living in that old house of Orsons². Well, Samantha, if you can get it fixed up and would rather live there, you may do so. Do just as you would rather and think it best and where you can live the most comfortable.

February 17

Dear Samantha,

I could not finish my letter last night. I try to finish it this morning but my hand is so nervless that I cant write very good.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter that it might be the Captain gets them [her letters] but Samantha, he has nothing to do with them. As long as I am here in the company, there is no one gets to see them and you can write any thing you wish. You wanted me to write and tell you how we are used and how we get along and what we

1 John Wesley Shirts, Samantha's brother.

2 Orson has not been identified.

have to eat. Well, dear Samantha, I cant write it all but I will tell you some and when I get home I will tell you some more.

We have got along well enough since we have been here except we do not get quite enough rations. We have a nice little shanty to live in, the best there is in the regiment. We have a floor in it and a fireplace and we have two bunks made of boards one right above the other. I and Daniel and James Abel sleep in one and Jacob Yarnell and Byron in the other. We have clothes enough and sleep warm enough. We draw five days rations at a time and I will tell you just what we draw every five days. We draw a plenty of coffee and some sugar and beans enough for one mess and sometimes a little pork and sometimes none. We draw three lbs of tack and this is just what we get once in five days except once in a great while we get some beef but it is very poor and the last we drawed was so bad that the Colonel had a hole dug and buried it.

But Samantha, I will get along well enough if I stay well and I think I will for I have been gaining all the time until a few days ago and I feel better today again.

Samantha, I have wrote an order on the other side of this sheet. You can do as you like about sending it but if you send it you will have to put the date of the month on it.

Dear Samantha, I wish I could come home to take care of you and then we would be happy and could get along some way but try and be contented and keep in good cheer a little longer, perhaps a month, and I think I will be at home again. But Samantha, I cant write any more this morning. I have a pass and I want to go to town to see John and David Kimes¹.

So good bye

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

I think Henderson¹ is [County] Trustee. You can find out but I think he is.

¹ John _____ and Henderson have not been positively identified. David Kimes is Josiah's brother.

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
February 19, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I received another letter from you today and it was a good and long one and just the kind I like to get. I am about as well as common today. I have the headache some but I will be sound in a day or two again.

Samantha, when I wrote to you a few days ago I was not very well. I dont hardly know what did ail me but I was so weak that I could scarcely walk and I had the headache but I am well again and I am very thankful to the Lord for it and to you, too, for I dont think that I ever used any money in all my life that done me so mutch good as that dollar you sent me in your last letter. I sent it to town with James Abel and he bought me a little butter and some bread and a couple of fishes and I eat a meal or two of them and I felt better right off and today I feel well again.

I think we will get some pay this week. There was a part of the Division payed last week. Samantha, when I get my pay I will send some of it home for I dont need it all here for I dont want to buy much for every thing is so high that I dont want to buy more than I can help. You wrote in your letter that you sent a handkerchief but Samantha, it has not come through or I have not seen it yet anyhow. When you write again tell me what kind and how it looked so that I may know it. There is one of our officers has a handkerchief that came by mail.

Samantha, when you move in the spring you had better get your rain trough hauled over for you will need it but Samantha, you must get them wells that Orsons had there covered up good so the children can not fall in them.

Dear Samantha, this is a beautiful Sunday. I was to Catholic meeting this forenoon but this afternoon I am here all alone in the woods about a half mile from camp trying to write a letter and thinking of those dear ones at home. The frogs are singing as merrily as they ever do in old Indiana but their song does not attract my mind at all for it reaches hundreds of miles from here to that old home and the dear friends that I left there.

Samantha, you must excuse this poor letter for this time.

Josiah Kimes

[United Christian Commission paper]

No. 1

Camp 35th Ind Pontooners
Huntsville, Alabama
Wednesday, February 22, 1865

My Dear Wife,

I received your kind and affectionate letter - dated the 12th inst. - today and in it I found a dollar and two stamps but Samantha, letters from you are worth more than money for I love to hear from home so well. That dollar you sent in your other letter was of great benefit to me for I am well and hearty again but Samantha, you must not rob yourself of your money for I will get along as well as I can and it may be that we will draw some before long and if we do I will send you some for you will need some to get clothes with in the spring.

Well, Samantha, this is a rainy day and I am on picket guard and have not much to write but I will do the best I can. We did not have any pickets out since we came here until last night. We had camp guards and had to guard the wagon train but night before last old Forrest attacked the Second Division which lies about 4 or 5 miles from here and they fought about two hours and a half and so we have to throw out pickets here now. We could hear the fight quite plain. They commenced at ten and quit at about half past twelve o'clock. We have not heard the particulars yet but the rebs were drove off.

Well, Samantha, you was right when you wrote that you thought I would not get tired reading letters from home for there is nothing that makes me feel better than to get a letter from home. I have wrote one every few days for I know you like to hear from me but sometimes I do not write very long letters for I have not time and at night I cant see for we have no candle.

Samantha, you wanted me to write whether I shaved or not and I guess I will have to tell you I shave once and sometimes twice a week since we are in camp and wash my clothes once a week and black my boots when ever I can get blacking and try to keep as clean as possible for there is nothing that looks worse than to see a lot of men as dirty as they can be and dont try to clean themselves at all.

And Samantha, if we get some pay soon I think I will

try and go to town and get my photograph taken, that is if I can get a pass. It will cost me about four dollars for half a dozen. I know you would like to have them but Samantha, I dont know whether I can get them or not but I will try.

Tuesday morning, February 23

Dear Samantha,

I did not get my letter finished yesterday for I was on guard and had not time enough to write but today I have nothing to do and so I will write some more. But I am very sleepy for I was out on picket and did not sleep any and it rained all night and is raining yet. I am well this morning and when I get my letter finished I think I will ly down and take a nap. The rest of the boys are all well as common.

Samantha, this paper was given to us by the Christian Commission. There was a man came in camp day before yesterday and give us two sheets apiece.

Well, Samantha, I will try and count up the number of letters I have wrote. I wrote 2 at Pulaski when we first came to the regt and than I wrote two at Columbia, the last of these you got, and then I wrote 4 at Nashville and then we came back to Columbia again and there I wrote 3 more again and I have wrote 8 or ten since we have been here. I think you will get most of these. Samantha, I wish I had numbered all my letters so you could tell just how many you have missed getting but I will number them after this so that you can tell whether you get them all or not.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter that you was glad to get that little piece of poetry and wished that I would write some more. I sent another little piece in my last letter and O my dear Samantha, I would be glad to write still more for you but there is so much swearing and confusion that I can scarcely write a letter in daytime. And O dear Samantha, how often my heart aches because I cant be alone for you know that I never liked to be where there is mutch noise or confusion but here I cant get away but have to stand it and O Samantha, the hardships or exposure and living on half rations are nothing in comparison of it. Every evening when I can I slip away alone and offer my prayer to my dear Redeamer when no one else is near and then how happy I am. And then I can

forget all my troubles and O how often I think of that sweet hymn that I have heard sung so often

I love to steal awhile away
 From every cambring care
 And spend the hours of setting day
 In greatful humble prayer

And Dear Samantha, this is a hard place but I will live and be a humble Christian. Let us love and serve our Savior and we shall meet again. Dear Samantha, try and teach them dear little children to be good children.

Samantha, I know you have too much to do and I wish that you could hire a girl to work for you so you would not have it so hard. But I live in hopes that I may be permitted to come home again and O what a happy time it will be. O Dear Samantha, language never can tell you how happy I would be but we will trust in the Lord and He will do all things well.

Dear Samantha, pray for me your true and faithful husband that I may ever live a Christian and that I may get home again to enjoy your happy society and live with those dear ones again at home. Samantha, write often and remember me.

Direct [your letters] to Co C 35th Reg Ind Vol, Huntsville, Alabama via Nashville, Tennessee

Josiah Kimes

Letter No. 2

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
 Tuesday night, February 28, 1865

My Dear Wife,

I received your kind letter of the 15th and 16th Inst. It was No. 2. I got No. 1 last Thursday. I am very happy and thankful to hear that you are still alive and well yet. The letter I got today had this sheet of paper and envelope and two stamps in it and so I will start them back again for I suppose that is what you meant them for.

I am still well and hearty and so are the rest of the boys. Samantha, I got the two dollars you sent to me and it came very good to me for I bought some bread and a little butter with it and it done me a great deal of good and I bought a few candles so that I can write some at night.

But Samantha, you had better keep your money for you will need it to get things with and to hire a girl for the way things are I think you had better hire a girl if you can get a good one for you should not do so much hard work and I would rather have you hire a girl, Dear Samantha. I am very sorry that things are so for it is so awful hard for you to bear so mutch trouble and especially when I am away and no one there to help you along and you are there all alone to bear so many hardships and trouble. But Samantha, try and keep up good courage and take good care of yourself. The time may come when I can be at home again. It is but a little over seven months more till our year is up for the muster rolls say our time is up a year from the time we was drafted and not from the time we was sworn in and according to that our time will be out the sixth day of October and if we all live what a happy time we will have.

Some think here that the war will not last the summer but we can not tell mutch about it but I hope it wont for I want to get home again to make my dear family comfortable and happy. All I want to live for is to do good and the comfort and happiness of my dear family. Were it not for that life would not be dear to me at all for if I die I know I have a home in heaven. O Samantha, let us put our trust in the dear Redeemer and live humble Christians so that if we meet no more on earth we can meet in heaven where we shall be happy for evermore and where sorrow can never come.

Samantha, I feel well and have good hopes of coming home again. There is no danger of me getting homesick although I think of home so mutch and can not help but think how mutch trouble you have to bear. Samantha, if you move in that old house you must get it fixed up good so you do not take cold and get sick. O I wish I could see you all. How happy I would be if I was there tonight. Why Samantha, it dont seem possible that little Emma can run around and talk. O how I would like to see her and be there to play with her. If I could I would like to send you all a present but I have nothing to send now. If I can get my photograph taken I will send them to you for I think you would like to have them but I dont know whether I can get them or not but when we get some pay I will try.

The weather is warm here now but it rains a good share of the time.

Samantha, I can not write big letters but I will write

often for I love to get letters from you. Samantha, you can't think how glad soldiers are to get letters. I got a letter from Uriah yesterday. He was [in] Washington when he wrote. He was well and with the regiment again. I did not get that handkerchief you sent to me and I am sorry for I would [have] liked so well to have got it. I have got eleven letters from you and I would not take anything for them.

Remember me your true husband

Josiah Kimes to Samantha

Huntsville, Alabama
Friday, March 3, 1865

My Dear Family,

I will again try to write a few lines to you. I looked anxiously for a letter from home today but was sadly disappointed and so I will write one home anyhow.

I am well as common and have been for some time. It is raining today but I am in the dry and have nothing to do but eat tack and drink coffee. Tomorrow I will be on guard and I hope it will stop raining by that time but if it does not I can stand it. Our little shanty has done us a great deal of service. When we was building it we was afraid we would not get to stay long enough to pay for building but it has payed so well already. I do not know how mutch longer we will stay here but some of the officers say we will stay till the first of May and I am sure I dont care if we stay here till our time is out or till they send us home. There is some sickness in the reg now. There has two men died out of our company within a week but the boys from there are all well.

Well Samantha, I will send you a ring in this letter although it is not a very nice one. I had nothing to make it with and only my knife or I might have made a nicer one. But Samantha, I knew you would like to have a ring from me if it is not so nice. And I have wrote a few verses that I will send along to you for you like to read poetry that I compose. Dear Samantha, I cannot write mutch but I will do any thing I can for you.

Samantha, keep in good cheer for the time is passing steadily on and five months of the year are almost gone and the hardest months at that. Seven more will go round by and by. And when I get home I will be a happy boy and if we all live we will have a happy time.

But Samantha, I cannot write any more this evening
for the mail is going out soon. Remember me and write
often.

From your Husband

J. H. Kimes
to Samantha

Huntsville, Alabama
March 3, 1865

Verses by JHK to his Family

- 1 All day I think. At night I dream
of home. And dear friends to bless
My heart doth long for liberty
And in that sweet home to rest
- 2 In token of love to you I send
This ring that my hand has made
Perhaps you neer may see again
This hand; for it soon may fade
- 3 Though many miles do ly between
Where you are now and me
But still our hearts are closely joined
As those on the ring you see
- 4 And if I neer see friends nor home
But in rebbel soil be laid
Remember then my Dearest friend
Whose hand this ring has made
- 5 But while we live we'l trust the Lord
And hope while life remains
Although so far apart just now
Samantha, we'l meet again
6. And when life's toils and cares are oer
Then we will suffer no more pain
But we will rise from earth to soar
O yes we will meet again

Josiah Kimes
To his Dear Family. Samantha Kimes, Cora A. Kimes,
Ada Kimes, Emma Kimes

Letter No.3

Camp near Huntsville

March 5, 1865

My Dear Wife,

Today I have not much duty to do and so I will spend some time in writing to you for I dont know of any other way that I can spend it as comfortable. I wrote a letter to you only two days ago but still I dont think you will get tired of reading letters from me. The one I wrote last had a ring in it and six verses of poetry and I hope you will get it for I made the ring on purpose for you. It is not so very nice for I had nothing but my knife to make it with yet I know you would like to have it. Some of the boys wanted to buy it and offered me a dollar and a half for it but I made it for you and so I would not sell it. But it may be too large for you and if you get it I wish you would tell me whether it is or not. If you put it in very hot water it might be possible that the sets would come out but I think hardly.

Well, Samantha, I wrote in my last letter that it was raining and had been for some time and I hoped it would stop yesterday and so it did but it was midling cold to stand picket last night but I would rather stand the cold than to have it rain all the time.

Samantha, I feel well and hearty and have ever since we left Nashville but a couple of times and I believe I would then if I would have had enough to eat for I did not feel very sick but I was so weak that I could scarcely walk. But we get some more to eat now. Major General Stanley was here two weeks ago and some of the companys complained to him and he said he did not know that the regiment was short of rations and this last week we have drawed smoked pork and perhaps we will get some more to eat. I hope so anyhow but I think I can stand it the rest of my time and then if I do not have to come back again I will try to get enough to eat if nothing more. And I believe we would have enough here if it was not for some of our Catholic officers for Daniel Faunce says they have enough where he is and the boys in the 9th Reg say they get enough there. James Brownlee and four or five more out of our township are in that regt but still I am glad we are with these pontoon bridges if it is a [?] reg.

Well, Samantha, you wanted me to write whether we

have to go to Catholic meeting yet. We have orders every Sunday morning to fall in and go to church but sometimes we do not go. There is a great many of the boys that dont go any more and I get out of it whenever I can for I dont like to hear that old priest preach. He says the church should learn nothing, only through the priest and all the blessings they receive from the Savior they must receive through him. I thank God it is not so but he stands there and pretends to impart the blessings of Christ upon them. I dont think it does mutch good for they go a swearing and come the same. They curse and swear and fight and get drunk and gamble and so I do not think the priest does mutch good. Last Wednesday was what they call Ash Wednesday and the priest took some ashes and made a cross on all their foreheads with ashes. O Samantha, they go through ever so many performances but I cannot write any more about them now. When I get home I will tell you a great deal more. Samantha, when I get home you will not have to try to get me to talk for I will talk enough for you, I think.

O Samantha, I have so many things I want to tell you but I can not write them very well but it may be I will get home sometime and then I will tell you all. We heard today that the railroad bridges were washed out between here and Nashville and that we would not get any mail for ten days and if it is so it will be awful hard. I have not had a letter for a week and if I have to wait ten days longer O they will be ten long long days. Why, it will seem like months and you will not get this for a long while but we will have to put up with it for such is the fate of war.

Samantha, I wish you would write to me whether draft has gone off and who all is drafted for I am very anctious to know. We heard that they was a going to levy a tax in that county to pay those to be drafted five hundred dollars bounty and if they do I think it is rather hard for us to come for nothing and then help to pay the rest for coming. I wish you would write whether you have heard any thing about it.

This is a fine day and the birds are singing merrily and they make me think of summer and O how I wish I was at home but we must wait and keep on waiting and the time will come after a while. Samantha, keep in good cheer and live as happy as you possibly can. Let us put our trust in our dear Redeamer and pray for each other that we may

meet again. Remember me your true and faithful husband
Josiah Kimes

Well Samantha, I have wrote a long letter now but I will write some more. I will now tell you about what kind of place this has been since the regiment has been paid off. This has always been a wicked place but since the men has got money it has been ten times worse for every third man (and perhaps more) is so drunk that they can scarcely walk and a great many cant. The officers in our company have all been drunk ever since; the Captain went to town right off and has been spreeing round there ever since. I believe he got back last night but he is still drunk. Last night I could hear dozens of drunken reches a vomiting in all directions and the regiment smells like a great swill of whiskey and filth and all kinds [of] wickedness going on in proportion! And where can there be any greater punishment (to a man that from the bottom of his heart despises such things) than to compel him to stay in such a place. But enough of this for this time.

Well, Samantha, you must try and keep in good cheer and try and get along as well as you can. Keep up good courage and live in hopes of better days. If we have to go to New Orleans our time will soon be out and then we will get home anyhow but I believe all the one year men will go out before long and perhaps before we get half way down the river. Maybe we will go down the Tennessee and up the Ohio River to Louisvillle but we dont know anything about it yet.

Samantha, you must try and get the wheat cut and taken care of for I dont think I will be home before harvest now. You can pay some of that money if you get it to get the wheat cut or you can give wheat but try and get it cut in time if you can. That money will be home in a week or so, I think. I expressed my overcoat, too. Father will get it and you can get it there. It is very dirty but if I ever get home I will try and clean it up. There are rumors here now that they will muster out another squad in a short time but I think it is only a rumor.

Samantha, keep a girl to work for you till I get home. Take of that money as long as it lasts. I know you cant get along without some one to stay and work for you and I would feel better satisfied if you would keep a girl. But I

have written a long letter now and must stop. From [your] faithful husband

Josiah Kimes to Samantha Kimes

Camp 35 Ind Pontooners
Near Huntsville, Alabama
March 7, 1865 Tuesday night

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write some tonight. This is a beautiful night. It is very warm and the moon is shining brightly and it is almost straight over us. The boys have got all kinds of amusement going on here in camp tonight. Some are playing the violin. Some are dancing. Some are swinging (for they have a large swing here in camp). Some are playing cards. Some are rasling. Some are boxing and some are pitching horse shoes. Some of them seem to enjoy themselves very well but for me there is no pleasure here for my heart is very sad to see so mutch wickedness going on and there is no meeting at all except Catholic. [There is] no mail and scarcely any rations for we have only been getting about half rations and now we only get half that mutch. But I have a little of that money yet that you sent to me and I will buy some bread so that I can get along. The railroad bridges washed out so that they cant get any rations nor mail through but our duty is still the same and it seems rather discouraging. But I think they will get the railroad fixed before long and then it will be better again.

I am still well and hearty and I hope you are the same and if I was at home tonight how happy we would be. But I dont think the weather is so warm up there as it is here for some of the trees are beginning to look green and the grass is commensing to grow and the darkies are plowing and some have made gardens two and three weeks ago. I was down to Huntsville a few days ago. It is a very pretty town (not quite so large as Ft. Wayne) with nice green cedar and other kinds of trees all along the streets and pavements. There is considerable business done in it. There is a plenty of hansome looking women in it but scarcely any men except soldiers. There is a large slave pen in it covering about half an acre of ground with a wall about twelve or fifteen feet high around it. There the slaves need

to be put in and sold out at auction. There is a plenty of negroes (not negroes but mulattoes) around here but they dont seem to have any masters any more but are all making a living for themselves. But Samantha, I can not write any more tonight for I am sleepy.

Wednesday morning, March 8, 1865

We are still all well this morning but it has clouded up and is raining. I will have to go on picket today and have but a few minutes to write but I will try and finish my letter for the news is this morning that the mail will go out in a day or two again and I want to have this ready. It may well be we will get some mail in a few days and I hope we will for I would so well like to get a letter again from home.

Samantha, you had better hire a girl to work for you and especially when you move for you will have a great deal of work to do and where ever you move you must get the house fixed good so you do not get sick. Samantha, do take good care of yourselves for when I get home (if I live so long) I want to find you all there and well and what a happy time we will have. I am in good hopes of getting home again. The time is passing away steadily and the summer will soon go round. We have not drawed any pay yet nor dont know as we shall soon for there is not more sign of it than there was a month ago but Samantha, if you need any money I think you can borrow some of Father till we get some. Samantha, if you can you had better hire pasture for your cow for if she runs in the woods you cant hunt her. But the heifer can run in the woods if she dont have a calf this spring. Samantha, dont trouble yourself about me for I will get along well enough.

But remember me

J.H. Kimes

Camp 35 Ind Pontooners
Near Huntsville, Alabama
March 10, 1865

Dear Samantha,

After waiting for some time I received 3 letters from you yesterday and so I will try to write a few lines to you as an answer to them. I was very glad to get them but if I

could get one every mail I would like it all the better. I have got No. 1, 2, 4, 5 and one you wrote to David Beam's February 26 that was not numbered. I guess you forgot it.

Well, Samantha, I have wrote a letter to you every two or three days but I dont think you get them all and if you did I do not think you will get tired of reading them for if you like to get letters as well as I do I know you wont. It costs a considerable to write so many letters but Samantha, the letters I get from you are worth more to me than they cost, yes more than money, and I know you like to get letters from me just as well. I have got a plenty of paper and envellops now. I got them on trust till payday. We cannot get any stamps here but we can send letters home without stamps. Everything is very dear down here. We have a sutler in our reg now but he sells every thing so high that we cant afford to buy mutch. I bought some crackers yesterday and had to pay forty cents a pound. I will not buy any thing that I can do without but we have to buy some or go without eating.

We are well yet as common and I hope you are all well and hearty.

The weather is very changeable here. A few days ago it was very warm but last night the ground froze very hard and today is a cold day for this country.

Samantha, I have not got that handkerchief you sent to me nor dont think I ever will. I sent you a ring and a few verses about a week ago and I hope you will get them for I know you would like to have them. Judson Miller got a letter from you yesterday and Daniel got one from Father and A. Abel¹. Samantha, when you write again write who is drafted for we are anctious to know [?] or whether they cleared that township from the draft or not. And tell me how our wheat looks in the new ground and whether you have enough for bread till harvest. Samantha, if you turn the hogs in the road you must feed them every day so that they dont stray off. Samantha, write who was around asessing this spring and what all he took down.

You wrote in your letter that you was not very well and were getting lame and still. Well, Dear Samantha, I am very sorry that you have so mutch trouble and sorrow to bear and I think you had better hire a girl and not work so hard yourself. I would like very well to find a little boy

1 Almira Abel, future wife of Daniel Kimes.

*at home when I get there but when I think how mutch
trouble you have to bear I can not help but feel bad and if
tears would do any good our sorrows would have been
lessened long ago. But we have to bear our sorrowful lot
and let us bear it patiently and trust in the Lord and there
may be better days a coming. Dear Samantha, I cannot
write any more just now but remember me your true and
loving husband*

*Josiah Kimes
to
Samantha Kimes*

Chapter 5

Movement to Nashville, Cessation of Hostilities and Reorganization of the 4th Army Corps Mid-March - Mid-July 1865 (Camp Harker)

With the approach of spring, the 4th Corps prepared to move out of winter quarters. On 11 March General George H. Thomas, commander of the Army of the Cumberland at Nashville, directed General Stanley at Huntsville to prepare his divisions to move to Bull's Gap, Tennessee via Knoxville, as soon as he was able to obtain railroad transport. As they arrived in East Tennessee, according to this order, troops were to be accommodated at a depot which was being established at Knoxville.

A flurry of communications was then exchanged which established how and in what order the various units would proceed to Knoxville. By 13 March all but three of the regiments of the 1st Division of the 4th Corps had left Huntsville, the remaining troops being held in readiness to move on arrival of forage and railway cars. On the 15th word was sent up the line that the remaining men and equipment would leave Huntsville on 17 March, the 35th Indiana Regiment accompanying the pontoon train at that time. This move also did not take place, apparently for the same reasons, and the 35th was still at Huntsville on 23 March. On that date Colonel Tassin, commander of the 35th, received an order directing him to ship the pontoon train by rail "as soon as cars can be procured." This order directed him to proceed to East Tennessee by rail "as practicable" and to report to General Stanley "at or in the vicinity of New Market or wherever he may be." He was to keep the regiment "at work day and night until all the pontoon train is forwarded, not giving the railroad employees any cause for complaint of delay in the use of rolling stock because troops without transportation are not ready to load cars placed at their disposal." The departure finally took place within a day or two.

On the evening of 12 March 1865 Josiah Kimes wrote to Samantha, making passing reference to the possibility that his regiment would be leaving Huntsville. In the letters which followed, he described the movement of his regiment into East Tennessee, and then its movement back to Nashville after the surrender of the Army of Virginia under General Robert E. Lee.

*Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
Sunday night, March 12, 1865*

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines tonight. I looked very anxiously for a letter today. There was a large mail came in today but the names were read off and none for me. I was badly disappointed but it may be I will get one tomorrow so I will wait patiently. I am still well as usual. The boys are all well but Jacob Yarnell. He took sick yesterday and is sick yet. He looks very bad but he walks about some.

Well, Samantha, I do hope this will find you all well. I dont see how you will get along when you are sick but I hope you will get along some how or other. I feel well in body but my mind is troubled a great deal for when I think how much trouble you have to bear I can not help but feel sorrowful for those trying hours. The strongest mind could not help but feel sad over the many troubles and tryals we have to bear but Dear Samantha, I hope there are happier days a coming yet. Amid all my troubles at times I feel happy for I know the savior is my friend and O what a friend that is ever near to bless in time of need and though I live long or die soon I will love him to the end. Although the tyranical hand of officers and Catholicism do govern the actions of the body yet the mind is free. This is a very pleasant evening and O how I would like to be at home to see you all and go down to that old meeting house to meeting. There is Methodist meeting in the brigade about a half a mile from here but we cant get out to go unless we would steal out and then we would be liable to be punished. But I know there is a better day a coming and I long to see it come.

Our rations are rather slim just now. For the last week we have had hard tack and coffee - no pork at all but perhaps we will get some fish. I have had a little of the

money you sent to me and so I have got along midling well and if you have it to spare you may send a dollar once in a while and it may come good to me. But you must not rob yourself. Maybe you can get some of Father. I dont know that we will draw any pay very soon. There is no signs of it now, not as much as there was a month ago but Samantha, dont send much at a time for I dont get all your letters. There is some talk of us moving from here soon but I dont know whether we will or not.

I have some hopes of the war closing this spring for I dont see how the rebs can hold out much longer. Samantha, keep in good spirits for next fall will soon come and then (if the good Lord spares my life) I will be home again. Do not fret about me for I can get along where any body else can. My prayer is that you may live as happy and comfortable as possible and that I may get home again to see you all. I will not send this off until I see whether I get a letter tomorrow.

Samantha, this is very poor writing for I cant see very well but if you can read it is all I ask.

When the sorrows of life are o'er
 Then we shall weep and sigh no more
 But Jesus then will take us home
 Where sin and sorrow neer can come
 Take us home to dwell with [?] above
 To sing the songs of endless love
 No groans shall mingle with our song
 No sigh to break that sweet repose

Remember and pray for your true and loving husband

Josiah Kimes

To

Samantha

Monday, March 13, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write some more today before I send this letter off. I am still well and Jacob Yarnell is better today. We all feel better for we got some pork. We have orders now to leave here day after tomorrow to go to Knoxville, Tennessee. It is over two hundred miles from here and that

will be a long march. I did not get any letters today and I dont think I will get any more very soon for if we leave here I dont expect to get any more for a month or more but if the mail comes in I may get one tomorrow and if I do I will write a few lines. We have stayed here so long that I hate to start on a march again and leave our little shanty and ly out of doors again.

Samantha, keep in good cheer and make yourself comfortable as you can. When we get on the march I can not write so often but I will write as often as I can. I can not write any more now so good bye for this time

Josiah Kimes

Camp 35th Indiana Pontooners
Huntsville, Alabama
4 o'clock Friday morning March 17, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few lines to you this morning. I have just come in off guard and have been up all night but the boys say the mail is going out this morning and so I will write a little. There has been no mail here nor went out since Monday. We were under marching orders and so our mail had stopped and was sent to Knoxville, Tennessee, for there is where we were ordered to go. It is about three hundred miles from here. We had set our minds on another long march, we had washed and mended all our clothes and had the pontoons all loaded up and then the order was countermanded for some reason or other and now I think we will stay here a week or so longer but cant tell. I am still well and hearty and the rest of the boys are well as common and I hope this will find you all well and happy, too. I think we will get some mail in a few days and then I expect to hear from home again. It has been some time since I got a letter. The last one I got is one that you wrote at the Beams and it was not numbered and Samantha, the two last ones I wrote I forgot to number. One was dated the 10th and the other the 13th. One should have been numbered 6 and the other 7. Samantha, I cant write much this time but I would like to write more if I could, for it may be that we wont get a chance to send letters out soon again for we cant tell one hour what we will have to do the next. But if we stay here I think the mail will go out every

day and if so I will write soon again.

But Samantha, I am awfully sleepy and the mail will soon go off so I can not write any more this time but remain your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

Camp near Huntsville, Alabama
Sunday March 19, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write some today for the mail does not go out now and I do not think that I can send this off for several days yet. I have not got any letters for two weeks now. Our mail was sent to Knoxville, for we were ordered to go up in that country somewhere. We have not gone yet for some reason or other and I think we will get our mail when the mail does come. We are all well and hearty and in good spirits but the hot weather is beginning to give us the spring fever. The weather is very warm here now. I have nothing on but my drawers, pants and shirt, bare footed, bare headed and the grease and sweat is just more than coming out. The peach and plum trees are out in bloom now and the grass is growing very fast. We have more to eat now since we have been under marching orders. We have plenty of tack and some sow belly and we drawed one days rations of good beef. It was fat and good. It was the first I have seen that was fit to eat since I have been in the army. I have seen some cattle butchered that were so poor they could not stand up but were knocked in the head while lying down and skinned and issued to the soldiers. I am fat and fleshy, more so than I ever have been but I guess the hot weather will take some of it off this summer. I hope you are all well, too, but I know you do not feel as well as I do for I know you have so much trouble. But I do hope you will get along as well as possible and Samantha, do not trouble yourself nor fret about me for I guess I will get along well enough and hope to get home again to see you all. We do not know how long we will stay here for we do not get any news and can not tell anything about it. I dont think we will [stay] very long, probably a week or two and it may be we will get to stay longer. We can not tell

what is a going on. We heard that our Division General was killed a few days ago in battle near Knoxville. His name was Kimble¹. Samantha, we had some blooded rebels in the regiment and one of them was a rebel Captain. They went up north and hired as substitutes. One of them was a wagonmaster in this Regiment. They have been spying and have been trying to get up a band of guerrillas since we have been here but they was caught at it. One of them had stolen eight or ten horses and mules and had got away but three or four of them have been caught and I expect they will be shot or hung. There was a girl here or within a few miles of here in the country that was making a rebel uniform for that Captain but our officers captured it and have it here in camp now. It must have cost something near a hundred dollars. So these Johnnies were caught at their little trick before they got to do much damage.

Well, Samantha, I can not write any more today but I will try and write some more before I send this off, perhaps tomorrow, for I do not think the mail will go out for a day or two.

From your husband
J. H. Kimes

Monday March 20

We are still sound and well this morning and weather is still very fine but quite warm. Samantha, amid the many sorrows there are still some splendid scenes in the army. Last evening I was standing and looking at the troops falling in for dress parade and to see the boys fall into companies and then into regiments and battalions and form a long line of men all dressed in uniform and their guns and bayonets glittering in the sun and to hear the band of music playing its sweet melodies seems to cheer and animate the spirits. But one thought of home and it is all gone, gone, although the officers seem to enjoy themselves very well for they have plenty to eat and drink and wear and horses to ride on and some of them have their families with them and enjoy all the pleasures that life and money can afford while many poor soldiers are deprived of all the

1 Reference possibly is made to Brev. Maj. Gen. Nathan Kimball.

comforts of life, have to bear the hardships and have neither enough to eat nor wear and have families they love a great deal more and a great many times are even deprived of the privilege of getting letters or hearing from them. But Samantha, I am getting used to some of the ways of the army, so that it does not go so hard any more and there is a time a coming when we shall be happy again for I am trying to live the life of a humble Christian and if I never see my home on earth I know I have a home in heaven. Samantha, let us live right and do right and put our trust in the Lord for he doeth all things well.

Samantha, when you write again tell me if your potatoes saved well and whether you have enough to do you and if you have any corn or feed left and how the wheat looks this spring and all the news. You can tell me how you get along by this time and if you have any one to work for you. There is some of the boys going to town and I want to send this letter with them. Good bye for this time.

Josiah Kimes

Lowden, Tennessee
40 miles from Knoxville
March 27, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will try to write a very few lines to let you know where I am. I have not [had] a chance to write to you now for we were tearing up our camp and loading the bridges and mules and wagons on the cars. We stopped at Chattanooga yesterday and there I got three letters from you and was very glad to get them for I had not got any for three weeks or near that time. I am sitting on the car now. The train was stopped here for a few hours but will soon go on to Knoxville and there we will have to unload again and I may not get a chance to write for a few days again. So I will write a few lines now and may be I can get a chance to send it out for I know you will be so anxious to hear from me. Samantha, I do not feel very well today. I have not slept any of any account for three nights. Friday night (24 March) I was on guard and the last two nights we have been riding on top of the cars and it is all we can do to stick on without sleeping. The night before last was very cold and frosty and I took cold and losing so much sleep

makes me feel bad. But I will get over it in a day or two again. I feel better now than I did last night and this morning when we stop I will write again and give you a history of our trip. The boys are all well. We seen the boys of the 44th yesterday. The letters I got yesterday were No. 9, 10 and 11. There is some back mail at Knoxville for us but Samantha, I can not write any more now but will write again soon. From your husband

Josiah Kimes

*Camp near Bull's Gap on the
Knoxville and Bristle Railroad
about 50 miles from Knoxville
April 1, 1865*

Dear Samantha,

This morning I will try to write a few more lines to you. I am still well and in good spirits and I hope you are all the same. The boys that came from there are all the same. That is, they are all well as can be expected under present circumstances. We have been marching for the last three or four days and stopped here last night. We do not know how long we will stay here but I do not think more than a day or two, nor do we know where we are a going for a soldier is like a ox that is drove. He knows not where he is a going till he gets there.

I under took to write to you while we are at Knoxville but did not get half done when the bugle blowed to gather up and fall in and so I had to quit right off and so I thought I would try it again today. We left Huntsville I think the 25th of March and came on the cars to Knoxville. I think we was three days on the road. It took us one day to load on the cars and a hard days work it was, too. Then we started in the evening and rode all night on top of the cars and got to Chattanooga the next day at ten. There I got three letters. One had a dollar in it. They was No. 8, 10 and 11. Then we started again in the afternoon and rode all night and stopped at Lowden the next day a while but started in the afternoon and got to Knoxville in the evening, unloaded the cars and put the wagons together and loaded them up. There I got two more letters but they was wrote before the others. They was No. 7 and 8 and one of them had Cora and Ada's photograph in it. I was very

glad to get them but I would be much happier if I was at home to see you all and play with them sweet little babies again. But the time is passing by and it will not be long till we shall see each other again (if we all live). Five or six days more and our time will be half out and maybe we will not have to stay so long, so I think the war is about played out. I think there will be several big battles yet and then I think the war will end.

There are a great many axidents on the railroads down here. While we were on the cars we could see every few miles along the track cars that had been smashed up and while we was coming from Knoxville here we came close along the railroad the most of the way. About 20 miles this side of Knoxville we crossed the railroad and just as we came up to cross there came a train along mostly loaded with soldiers. There was a small river there and the bridge was about thirty or forty feet high and just before the train went on the bridge three of the cars ran off the track and as they came on the bridge they all three broke through the bridge and was smashed to pieces on the rocks. They [the rocks] was covered with soldiers on the top and it was an awful sight to see them go down. I did not but some of the boys seen them break through. I was there in a few minutes afterwards and helped to carry some of the wounded boys out of the river or creek, as you might call it. It was midling wide but only a few feet deep. There was only 4 or 5 killed but a great many wounded. I dont see how any of them escaped but now that old bugle is blowing again to fall in and I must stop writing now.

Sunday, April 2

Samantha, I will try and finish my letter that I commenced yesterday. We had stopped about five miles on the other side of Bull's Gap and thought we would get to stay there a day or two but before I had time to write a letter we had to fall in and was marched about 9 or 10 miles. So we are 4 or 5 miles east of it now and we have camped down so I think we will stay here a week or two but cant tell certain. We are all well and hearty yet. This is a very mountainous country. We can scarcely see any thing but the hills and mountains. There is a good many troops here now. I am on guard today and [there is] not time to write much. I thought I would try and finish my letter and

send it off as soon as I could get a chance but I will write soon again if we stay here. I think we will stay here a week or two. So good bye for this time. Remember and pray for your true and loving husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Lick Creek, Tennessee about 60 or
70 miles east of Knoxville
March 4 [sic: April 4] 1865

Dear Wife,

I will try and write a few lines to you today. It has been two days since I wrote last but it may be we will have to march by tomorrow and I may not get a chance to write again. I am still well and hearty and in good spirits. We heard yesterday that Richmond was taken and the boys all started to feel good over it. The boys that came from there are all well and if we was to come home now the folks there would hardly know us for we all look fat and hearty and are sunburnt so we are about the color of Indians and look tuft as though nothing could faze us. Daniel and James Abel dont look at all like they used to. They are both great big fat fellows. I never thought that Daniel would ever be as fat and healthy as he is now.

Samantha, you wanted me to write whether we are to be mustered out one year from the time we was drafted and that is the 6th day of October. This is the date on the rolls and they say nothing about the time we was sworn in. The Colonel says we will be mustered out the 28th of September for there is two squads came to the regiment, one [of which] was drafted in September and the other the fore part of October and they will all be mustered out together about the 28th of September. But I think now the war will be over before that time and it may be before harvest. Things looks that way now. We are encamped close by the road and the troops have been passing by here all day going east. I think we will follow that way in a day or two. You wanted to know what I had to wear on my feet. I have my boots yet. They have worn very well for some of the boys have worn out two or three pairs of shoes since we came to the regiment. This march has about used up my old boots but they will last a while yet and then I can

draw a pair of shoes. They are not very good but will do in warm weather. The clothes we draw now are not very good and cost just as much more as [they] used to. I do not want to draw more than I can help for I have not drawed any thing since we left Kendalville but one pair of pants and some socks and two hats. The hats we draw cost \$2.25 and they dont wear more than a month or so. I did not like to wear a cap and so I drawed a hat and wore it out and have drawed another.

Samantha, keep in good cheer for I think the war will be over before long and we will get to come home by and by. And if it does not end our time is more than half out and the rest will slip by after a while. We have a better time now while on the march than we did while at Huntsville for we get more to eat and get our knapsacks hauled on the wagons. The days are warm here now but the nights are cold. Daniel Fanel was over here yesterday. He is well and hearty but I can not write any more now.

Josiah
To Samantha Kimes

Lick Creek
April 6, 1865

Dear Wife,

I received another letter from you yesterday. It was No. 12. I was glad to hear from home again and today I will try to write a few lines in answer to it. I am still well and hearty and I hope this finds you all well and enjoying yourselves as well as possible. The boys are all well and enjoying themselves as well as can be expected. This I think is a very healthy country and there is but very little sickness in the army here in Tennessee. [Except] for the exposure I dont think we would be any more liable to get sick here than at home and hardly as much. We have very good times here now, better than we have had since we have been in the army. We get more to eat now than we did before and when we march we have our knapsacks hauled on the wagons. We have been getting good news for the last few days and the boys all seem to be in good spirits. I think the war will end before long and a good many think we will get home before harvest. I hope so but we can not tell. I dont think this army [will] have any more

fighting to do and if the Lord spares our lives we will all get home before long. Anyhow Samantha, dont fret any more about me for we get along well enough now and I think we will all get home by and by. Try and get along as well as you can and keep in good cheer for it wont be long till I will get home again and if we all live we will be happy again. I know you have so much trouble to bear that you cant take any comfort now but Samantha, there is a better day a coming and I hope it will come soon.

There is quite a large army here now or a few miles in front of this. I think we will probably move on east or northeast toward Virginia as fast as they can repair the railroad. There is about two or three thousand hands to work at it now but our regiment or pontoon train marches in the rear of the army.

I was a fishing this forenoon but did not get so much as a smell of a fish. I guess they must be reble fish and wont bite at a Union hook.

Friday, April 6

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines more this morning. I am still well as usual. I was on guard last night and it rained almost all night and it is still raining this morning. We got some more news last night. We heard that Lee was about to surrender his army and treat for peace but I dont believe it yet for there are so many rumors here that are false.

You wanted me to write and tell you whether I thought you had better hire a girl to work for you. I think you had and not work so much yourself for I know you cant do all your work yourself.

Samantha, keep in good spirits and live as comfortable as you possibly can. I suppose you have moved before this time. I have thought about it a great deal and am almost sorry that we sold our home for I know you wont feel yourself at home now and have so much trouble.

Three days after Josiah mentioned that there were rumors among the men that General Lee was about to surrender, that surrender apparently was a matter of rumor to the commanding officer of the

corps as well. On 10 April General Stanley sent a telegram to General Thomas asking for "reliable news" about the surrender of Lee's army. Thomas replied on the same day as follows: "Have information from War Department, but particulars not given. The Associated Press, however, reports that Lee has surrendered his army to General Grant; that is, the Army of Virginia." General Stanley in turn gave the news to the troops the same day, as related by Josiah in a letter dated 11 April 1865.

Camp near Lick Creek,
East Tennessee
April 11, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try and write another letter to you this morning. I have delayed writing a day or two expecting to get a letter from you but did not get any so I will write anyway. I have not got one since we left Knoxville. It was No. 12. I do not know the reason but we got no mail and have not for some time.

The weather has been very rainy for the last week and is yet, which makes it rather disagreeable for a soldier but we are as well as usual and feel much encouraged at hearing so much good news. We heard yesterday that Lee has surrendered his whole army and this morning we heard that peace was declared. We dont believe this yet but think it will be in a very few weeks. I dont think there will be any more fighting to do but we may have to lay in camp for some time yet. I think we will get home before fall and perhaps in a few months. Well Samantha, I feel greatly encouraged to think that the war will soon end and to think that it wont be very long till I can see my dear family again if the Lord spares us so long. I hope you are well as can be expected and enjoying yourselves the best you can.

I feel midling well and am fleshier than I used to be while at home but I dont feel as stout and rugged as I used to at home. I have had a pain in my leg and back and head most all the time but I think I will get over it when I get home again and dont have to sleep on the ground. Samantha, keep in good cheer and dont fret any more about me. I am very thankful to the Lord that he has been as good to us that our lives have been spared and that we are as well as we are. There is but little sickness here in the

army now. I wish it was so I could be at home so soon but you must get along as well as you can until I do come. You had better hire a girl if you can get a good one and not work so hard yourself. We can get money some way to pay.

We get a plenty of pork and hardtack and coffee now. We have nothing to complain of now. Every thing looks favorable excepting I think we might get our mail and I do not know why it is we do not get it. I would like to hear from home again. We heard heavy firing out in front of us last night. It must have been 5 or 6 miles off but we have not heard the cause of it yet.

Well, I have wrote all the news that I can think of just now so I will quit by asking you to keep in good spirits and remember and pray for me your faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

Lick Creek, East Tennessee
April 23, 1865

Dear Samantha,

Last night I received three letters from you and in one of them I found yours and Emma's likenesses. Oh how glad I was to get them. Why Samantha, Emma dont look at all like she did when I left home. Little fat baby, how she has growed and how fat she is. You look just as you did but you seem to be poor and look sober and sorrowful. O Samantha, you must try and cheer up and not trouble yourself so much. If you could see my likeness you would think I looked fleshy to what I did when I left home and that it has done me good to soldier a while, although I am not as fleshy as I was a month ago. I am fleshy yet but you know I always get poor in the summer and the weather has been midling warm here for a month.

The letters I got last night were No. 13, 14 and 15 and I got one from Uriah. That made four that I got last night. He [Uriah] is well and says the war down where he is is about over. The officers here say it is over now, that there will be no more fighting and that we will get home in a couple of months. Lee and Johnson and Forrest have all surrendered their armies and the rest are surrendering as fast as they can.



Know ye, That Josiah Kimes

alias of Captain Abraham Peters
 Company, (I.) 35th Regiment of Infantry
 VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the sixth day of October
 one thousand eight hundred and sixty three to serve one year or
 during the war, is hereby Discharged from the service of the United States,
 this thirtieth day of September, 1865 at Victoria
Texas by reason of old age and weakness and disability
 (No objection to his being enrolled is known to exist.)

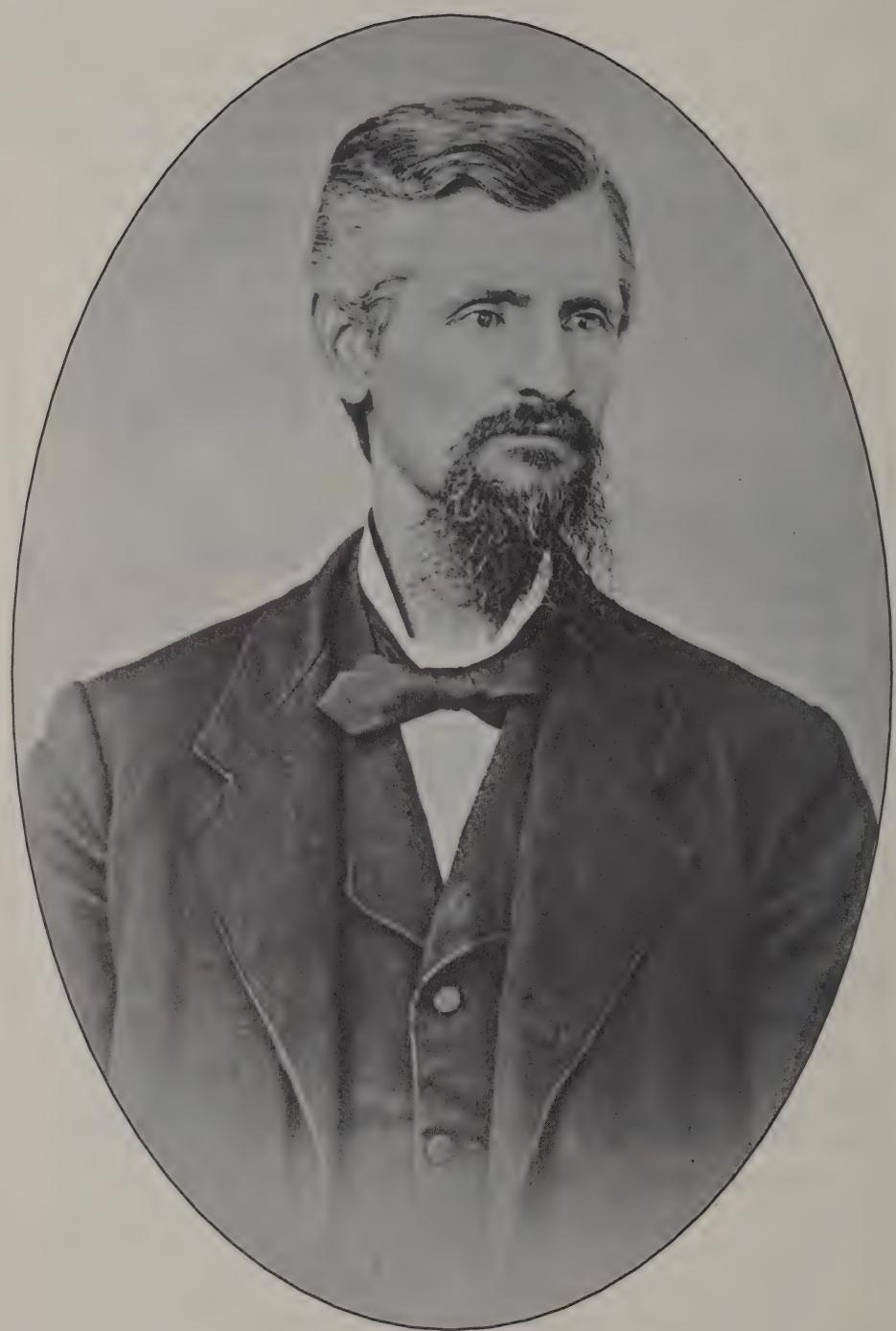
Said Josiah Kimes was born in
 in the State of Texas, not stated, is ninety five years of age,
six feet four inches high, Face companion size, eyes,
black hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a farmer.

Given at Victoria Texas this thirtieth day of
September 1865.

NOTE - This evidence will be deemed valid should any be compelled
 to the removal or physical condition of the witness
 rendering him unfit for the duty.

Abraham Peters Captain Company	J. W. Nichols Captain C. I. R. C. Capt. 1st Regt. Texas
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a. Josiah Kimes' Discharge Certificate



b. Josiah H. Kimes



c. Samantha Shirts Kimes



*d. The Kimes Family about 1876.
From left to right: Clara, Ada, Josiah, Cora, Emma,
Samantha, Byron.*



e. Cora Kimes



*f. Ada Kimes
the author's grandmother*



g. Emma Kimes



h. Clara Kimes



i. Byron Kimes

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The United States Christian Commission

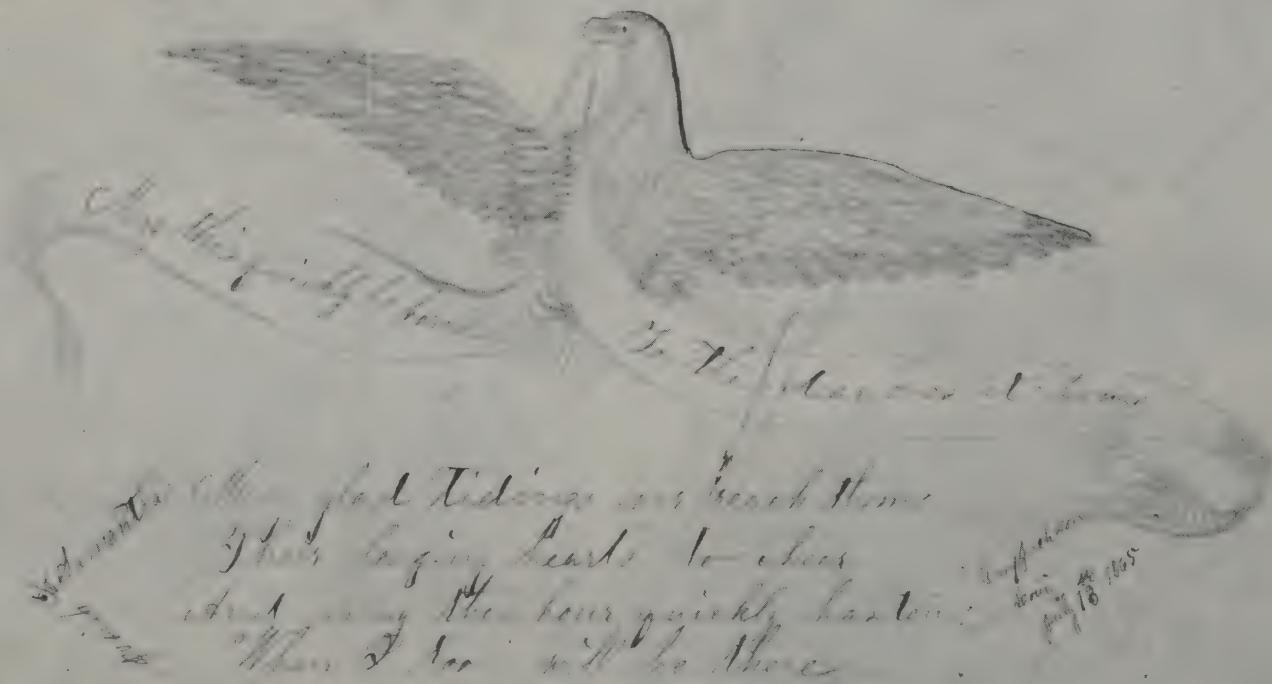
Send this sheet with the money you have to me

Let a letter come with the money

Frank 35 Regt. Pines Pontooniers
Huntsville Ala.

Wednesday Feb 22nd 1681

My Dear Wife I received your
kind and affectionate letter - dated
the 12th Inst - today and in it
I found a dollar and two stamps
but Samantha letters from you
are worth more than money for I
long to hear from home as well as
that dollar you sent in your other
letter was of great benefit to me for
I am well and hearty again but
Samantha you must not rob yourself
of your money for I will get along
as well as I can and it may be
that we will draw some before long
and if we do I will send you some
for you will need some to get



k. Sketch and poem by Josiah Kimes.

(see page 122)

On 14 April President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in Washington. The news was sent to the 4th Army Corps the following day by General Thomas, who promised that particulars would be provided during the day "as far as we can learn them." He indicated at the same time that he was trying to get the railroads in order in anticipation of further orders from the War Department on the movement or disposition of his command, and that he planned to see the postmaster to "find out what necessity there is of overhauling your mail at Knoxville."

The promised news on the assassination was given to the troops on 16 April and on the following day General Thomas had his orders from General Grant, which read as follows: "The freedom of Virginia from occupation by an armed enemy renders the occupation of East Tennessee in large force longer unnecessary. You may commence the withdrawal of the Fourth Corps to Nashville immediately. It is desirable to hold all the territory we now have in sufficient force to protect it against roving bands that may yet infest the country, but all forces not necessary for that collect near Nashville as rapidly as possible, the Fourth Corps intact."

Movement of the 4th Corps "intact" then got under way, with orders being issued down the line on just how that movement was to be effected. Colonel Tassin received his orders from 4th Corps headquarters on 19 April to "at once move with the pontoon train to Knoxville, Tenn., taking only rations and forage enough for the men and animals to last until you reach that place, say five days." The troops were to march as far as Rogersville Junction, from which point they were to proceed by rail unless countermanding orders were received from General Stanley at Knoxville. Apparently no such orders were received, as Colonel Tassin issued his own orders on 19 April: "This Command will move tomorrow at 12 o'clock. The men will be allowed to have knapsacks carried in the wagons but must carry their arms and ammunition."

Josiah Kimes' letters gave Samantha his account of events just before, during and after the move to Nashville.

Lick Creek, East Tennessee
April 16, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will again attempt to write a few lines to you. This is a fine day and we are all well as common and enjoying ourselves as well as possible under present circumstances. Today is Easter Sunday but it does not seem like Sunday nor Easter either and I guess we will not founder on eggs today. Anyhow we have been here a little over two weeks now and it has rained the most of the time but today is a

pleasant day, neither too warm nor too cold, and me and Byron are about a half a mile from camp on top of a very high hill. From here we can see as much as twenty miles at least. We can see mountains that are that far off. We came out here to write for there is so much noise and confusion in camp that a person can scarcely write there.

We got the news yesterday that there was some railroad bridges broke down and we would not get any mail for four or five days. So I think this will not go out for a few days but the day seemed long and lonesome and so I thought I would write anyhow and it may be you will get it some time. I have wrote a letter every few days since we have been here and have got four letters from you and one from Uriah. I do not know how long we will stay here but I think not very long for I think we will move back again in a short time as there is nothing for us to do here now since Lee did not get to come this way. I dont think there will be any more fighting done and peace will be made soon.

There was a rumor in camp last night that Lincoln was killed but I dont believe it, for there are so many false rumors that a person cant tell what to believe. I hope it is not so anyhow. It would be a very hard stroke for the United States if it was.

Samantha, I think the war is over now and I dont think it will be very long before we will be started toward Indiana again. I dont think it will be many months til we will get home, if we live so long. I do wish I was there now and I think we might as well be there for I dont see as we are doing any good here now lying in camp. I almost know there will be no more fighting for us to do. I am glad that the thing is so well got along with and that we have prospects of getting home again. Samantha, keep in good cheer and dont trouble yourself any more but wait a little while longer and if the Lord spares my life I will be home again. I hope you are all well and that I may find you all well and hearty when I get to come home. We must trust in the Lord for he does all things well. From your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

Samantha, I have no ink now and this is why I have to write with a pencil but I hope you can read it.

Camp Near Lick Creek
Verses by J. H. K.

*Time is passing by but slowly
 Yet all nature seems so glad
 And birds their sweetest songs are singing
 But why are we so sad*

*Ah! look here and see this likeness
 That just to me has come
 The falling tears can better tell you
 How I love them and that home*

*Ah! so well do I remember now
 The sweet smiles of friends so dear
 And the many happy hours I saw
 While I was with them there*

*But O! how far I'm from them now
 The friends who once were glad
 Think of this and it will tell you
 The cause why I am sad*

*Yet there is a hope that cheers me
 Along this rugged way
 This journey will soon be ended
 And then we'll happy be*

*But my trust is in the Savior
 And I'll submit his will
 Thus far he has brought me safely
 And he will guide me still*

*By J H Kimes to his Family
 Samantha Kimes April 16, 1865*

*Camp near Lick Creek, East Tennessee
 April 19, 1865*

Dear Wife,

I will again write a few lines to you. I am still well as common and I do hope this will find you enjoying good health. We are still here in camp. We have been here almost three weeks now but the troops have been passing by here for the last two days and we will start in a few

days. They are all a going back to Nashville. We dont know whether we will go on the cars or afoot but we will find out in a few days. We dont know where we are a going from Nashville but most of the boys think we are a going home. I think myself we are a going back to Indiana.

We get no mail now and have not for more than a week. I think the officers are trying to keep all the news from the boys but the general opinion of the soldiers is that the war is over and that we are a going back home. We cant tell certain but if that is the intention we will stop at Nashville a while and Indianapolis a while so it will be some time before we get home. Anyhow, Samantha, keep in good spirits and dont worry any more about me, for I think we will all get home again before long. Our mailboy told us today that the mail would go out again in the morning and after that we would not get a chance to send out any letters for some time, so I thought I would write a few lines this evening so I could send it out in the morning.

Last Sunday we got an official dispatch that President Lincoln was killed. He was shot in a theater and the assassins killed several other officers. Oh what sad news it was to the soldiers. Almost every soldier was stricken with horror and the much noise and confusion was soon lulled down to an almost profound silence. You could see them stand in groups but all was silence and all were loath to believe the sad news.

Well, Samantha, you must excuse a short letter this time for I have not much news to write. I hope I will soon be home so I can talk to you and not have to write. Remember me your loving husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Letter No.18

Knoxville, East Tennessee
April 25, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few lines to let you know where we are by this time. We left our camp at Lick Creek on the 19th and got here night before last. I would have wrote yesterday but I was on guard and had some washing to do. I dont know as it is of any use to write for I dont believe

they have sent off what we have wrote. We have had but one mail for a month and that had been so long that I dont remember when it was. There was a large mail come to Bull's Gap for this regiment and the officers sent it back and told us we would get it here and when we got here they had sent it back to Nashville and when we get there I expect it will be sent still farther back and I dont know as we will get it at all. We dont know whether our letters go home or not. I have forgotten to number some of my letters and you will hardly know whether you get them all. This should be the 18 or 19th but I dont know which but Samantha, it will not be very long til we will not need to write but can talk to each other if our lives are spared.

I think it will not be very many weeks till we will see each other again but we have only to guess at it for the officers keep all the news from us. We do not hear any war news any more and cant tell what is a going on but we all believe the war is over and we are a going home soon. We will have to take these pontoons back as far as Louisville, Kentucky. We will go on the cars from here but still it will take some time for we may not get started from here for a week and then we will have to go by way of Chattanooga and Nashville and probably stop at each place a few days. We will get home after a while but we cant just tell how soon.

Dear Samantha, keep in good cheer and try and be contented a few weeks longer and if I live so long I think I will be home again. I am still as well as common but I am getting very poor again. I am about as poor as when I came from home but I feel as well as I did when I was so fat and fleshy. The boys are all well as common. The nights are very cold here now and in the daytime it is awful hot. Remember me and pray for me your true and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

It seems like a very long time since I have heard from home but I hope the day is not far hense when I can be there again.

Knoxville, Tennessee
April 27, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try and write a few lines to you today. We are still here at Knoxville and we dont know how much longer we will have to stay here but we will leave for Nashville as soon as we can get transportation and I think that will be in a few days. I hope we may go soon for it may be we will get our mail at Nashville. I do hope we will for I am very anxious to hear from home again. It seems like a long time since I have got a letter and it has been about three weeks. I dont know why they could not as well let us have our mail here or back at Bull's Gap where it came before we left there but the officers had it sent on here and said we would get it here and when we got here they had sent it on to Chattanooga or Nashville and I dont know as we will ever get it.

There is ten or a dozen trains leave here every day for Chattanooga and I think our turn will come soon. This is a very nice town and surrounded by strong fortifications and earthworks. It is as nice a place as I have seen in the Confederacy but I am not contented and want to be a going on. If we could get our mail here I would as soon stay here as any place besides home. And if my life is spared I think I will be there before very long but we cant tell certain yet. I do hope you are all well yet and getting along as well as possible and that I may be there with you before very long. If I am permitted to get home again I expect to live better and be a better man than I ever have been.

Dear Samantha, let us put our trust in the Lord and try to live a Christian life and I know if I never see my earthly home I have a home above, a house not made with hands, eternally in the heavens. Dear Samantha, pray for me that I may keep faithfully and always do right and that I may get home again to try to support and take care of my dear family.

I am still well as common and the rest of the boys are all well as usual. We have not much to do here now and the time seems very long and lonesome to me. We get a plenty of grub now and the best we have had since we have been in the service. We get plenty of tack and pork and coffee and sugar and we drew some codfish the other day but I dont eat them myself. If we had money we could buy

plenty of pies and cakes here but there is no money in the regiment to amount to anything and I dont think we will be mustered out and paid until we are mustered out. I dont know how long that will be yet but I hope not very long.

Friday, April 28

Samantha, I expect you get more news there than we do here and by looking over the papers you can tell where the Fourth Corps is ordered to and can tell more about it than we can for we can only guess at it. But keep in good cheer and dont fret nor trouble yourself any more for I think it will be all right by and by. Samantha, if I dont get home til you are sick you must take good care of yourself and not get up and go round too soon. I dont think I will get home so soon. I think we will probably get home some time in June but we cant tell certain. But good bye for this time, from your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

I am still well this morning and in good spirits and hope you are the same.

Nashville, Tennessee
Tuesday, May 2, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will again write a few lines to you to let you know where we are and that we are still alive and well. We reached here today. We left Knoxville last Sunday. It has been two weeks since we started at Lick Creek but we stopped at Knoxville just a week and it seems like a long way that we have come already. It is considerable over three hundred miles that we have come already but it is still a great way home from here. When we get started it will not take long to come but we cant tell how long we will stay here.

I got a letter from you today. It was dated 24 April and No. 19. There is three back yet somewhere but I was very glad to get a letter so late from home and to hear that you was all midling well. Yet I feel very sorry that you have so much trouble and that I am not there to share your

many troubles and sorrows. But Samantha, try and keep in good spirits for it may be that I will get home in a few weeks. It may be four or five but we cant tell certain. I do hope you will get along well and Samantha, you must be sure and send for help as soon as you can and maybe you had better send for a doctor but do as you think best. It may be I [will] get home before you are sick but if I dont you must take good care of yourself so I will find you all well when I come home. If our lives are spared I know we will get to come home before very long. I wrote two letters while we were at Knoxville but I dont know whether you will get them or not. The last one had a few verses of poetry in it and I hope you will get them. I have not much news to write this time but keep in good cheer for if we all live I think we will see each other again in a month or so and then we can talk and not have to write. From your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

Samantha, if you need any things and can get any one to get you an order of the Treasury or get them for you, I think you had better get all you can. We have just as good a right to draw as the rest for we have to help to pay the tax and while I am away from home you should draw all you need. But enough of this. You must do the best you can and remember me. So good bye

Josiah
To Samantha

Josiah apparently did not know when he wrote that the entire 4th Army Corps was moving into camp. By the time he next wrote the troops were settling into the routine and discipline prescribed by General Orders dated 29 April 1865. These specified that at Camp Harker, as the camp was to be known, "every pains" were to be taken to keep the grounds neat and the police perfect. They also covered the establishment of exterior picket lines by divisions and interior camp guards by brigades; outlined the issuance of passes allowing "but a reasonable number of men to be absent from their camps at the same time"; prescribed measures to "put the troops in the best condition in arms, equipment, clothing and transportation"; and finally specified the resumption of "drills in the school of the soldiers, company, battalion and brigade."

At the same time preparations were being made soon after arrival for a grand review of the Corps by General Thomas. This review was to

take place on Monday, 7 May, with the troops moving out to assume their assigned positions at 7 a.m. Having been advised of his position and of the components of the pontoon train which were to be included, i.e., "wagons loaded as lightly as possible, just enough to indicate a Pontoon Train," Colonel Tassin ordered the men of the 35th Indiana to be prepared to march in the parade without knapsacks but with canteens well filled. "The Colonel Commanding expects to command both the Pontoon Train and the Regiment to make the best possible appearance. Company commanders will see that clothing, arms, accoutrements of the men are in the best order. No officers but field and staff will be mounted and all commissioned officers are to wear crepe on the left arm or sword hilt as a token of respect for the memory of the great and good Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the U.S." He then went on to say that, "Considering the close of a war in which we have thanks to Almighty God acted a glorious part, this may be the last time we may have the honor of being reviewed by Major General Thomas, here in Nashville...It is fit that the gallant men who for nearly four years passed through unheard of dangers and privations should appear in becoming manner in justice to themselves and the Major General Commanding." Every man was to wear Corps and Division badges, a triangular patch for the 4th Army Corps and a red flannel patch on the cap for the 1st Division.

*Camp 4 miles from Nashville
Sunday morning, May 7, 1865*

Dear Samantha,

This morning I will again try and write a few lines to you. I am still well and hearty and this is a beautiful Sunday morning but if you was here to see the wickedness and confusion that is a going on you would hardly think it was Sunday.

The boys are all well except Daniel. He has been complaining for a few days. We have a nice camp here and plenty of good water and get a plenty to eat, such as it is. David Kimes came out here to see us yesterday and brought us a couple of loaves of light bread and some herring and a couple of testaments and papers. I was down to town yesterday and saw James Brownlee. He is in the hospital and is very poorly, not able to walk and looks very bad. I done a big days walking yesterday and was very tired when I got back last evening. Then I stood guard most all night so I am not in very good trim for writing,

Maybe you can read it but I am very nerveless and can hardly write. Nashville is quite a large town and is a great business place. You could see anything that was eatable that ever was thought of but every thing is very dear and I only had ten cents so you might well know I did not get foundered on nice things. But I got to see all the boys that I went to see and John¹ has just now come over to see us this morning.

Everything looks favorable now. We are a going to have a grand review tomorrow about five or six miles from here and I expect it will be a hard day for us for we will have to march down there with our knapsacks and all on and if it is a hot day it will more than make us sweat. But I guess we can stand it and I think it wont be very long till we will go farther north. We cant tell certain how long we will have to stay here yet but I think the first of June will find us in Indianapolis anyhow and it wont be very long till we can be at home again. You must wait patiently and not trouble yourself any more but ought to be very thankful that we are as well off as we are and that we have as good hopes of seeing each other soon again. I do hope you are all well and getting along well. Samantha, you had better keep a girl with you and not stay alone any more and just get every thing you need. If you can get an order from the township you had better hire some one to go and get it for you. Maybe you can hire Jessee² to go and I will pay him when I come home. I am sorry that I have no money to send you but we will not get any pay till we are mustered out. Keep in good cheer and remember me your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

O Samantha, I have to tell you I was to Catholic meeting this forenoon. Our old priest preached to the regiment and he read a chapter out of the testament while he was preaching to the regiment. He preached well enough but after his sermon they had a regular Catholic meeting and it beat anything I ever saw to be called meeting. The old priest had on a long robe and over it he had on a long white gown that reached to the ground and it was

1 Not positively identified.

2 Probably Jessee Headley, a neighbor.

embroidered and worked all over and he had on a white silk sash and had it crossed before and it had yellow borders and crosses and he had on a collar such as the ladies in our county used to wear a year or two ago. The Catholic members all nealt around his tent and the old priest went through some of the greatest performances that I ever saw. They have mass every morning and go to the old priest's tent and neel down and get their sins forgiven and then they curse and swear and fight the rest of the day but I have wrote enough about that. When I get home I can tell you such things much better than I can write them to you.

Samantha, you must do the best you can in taking care of them babies. Try and learn them to be good children. Dear Samantha, I would like to be there to help you but you know that I cant just now. But Samantha, remember and pray for me for this is a very hard place for a person to live right. Good bye for now.

Direct your letters by way of Nashville, Tenn., 35th Regiment Ind Volunteers Company C.

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

Camp 4 miles west of Nashville
Thursday evening, May 11, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I have been wanting to write a letter to you all day but it has rained so very hard all day that we had no place to keep dry. It just sifted through our tent almost as fast as it fell and it has been very cold, so that we were cold with our overcoats on. It has stopped raining now but it is almost sunset now and so I can not write very much tonight but I will write a little and finish it in the morning.

I have been looking for the last few days for a letter from you but got none. I do hope and trust you are all well yet and getting along as well as possible. I am still well and hearty and in good spirits but not contented for since the war is over and we have got started towards home I want to keep going and cant be contented until I get home. The boys are all well but Daniel is sick and has eat nothing for

a week and begins to look bad and poor but I hope he will soon get well again. I got an order of our captain today and went and bought some dried apples but he eat but a few. David¹ was here yesterday and he brought some more light bread for us and I went to the creek and caught him a small fish and cooked it for him but he could not eat it. He feels some better this evening and I hope he will be well in a few days.

I think we will leave for Indianapolis in a few days, in a week or ten days anyhow, but we will probably stop at Louisville a few days and I dont know how long at Indianapolis. But I think not very long and I look to be at home about the first week in June and maybe sooner.

General Thomas had a grand review of the Fourth Corps at Nashville last Tuesday. It was to be on Monday but it rained all day so he put it off til Tuesday. It was hard work but a splendid sight. It was the last review of the Fourth Corps, I think. I cant see to write any more tonight.

Friday morning

Dear Samantha,

I will try and finish my letter this morning but I will be on guard and have but a short time to write. I am still well and Daniel feels some better. I do hope you are all well yet. Last night was a very cold night. I had two blankets over me and I was so cold that I could not sleep but the sun is shining this morning and it looks as if it was going to be a pleasant day.

Dear Samantha, keep up good courage and dont trouble yourself about anything for I think in a few weeks we will not have to write letters to each other [as] I will be at home again. I feel well and in good spirits but I want to be going towards Indiana. I am too cold to write this morning so I will have to quit but remain your affectionate and loving husband

Josiah Kimes
To
Samantha Kimes

1 David Kimes, Josiah's brother.

Camp near Nashville, Tennessee
Sunday, May 14, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will again write a few lines to you. I am still well and I do hope you are all as well as can be expected under the present circumstances. I know you dont feel well but Samantha, I do wish you was well again. I hope you will get along well and that I will find you all well and hearty when I come home. But we must trust to the Lord for that. I feel a great deal better and healthier than I did while we was at Bull's Gap. Daniel is still sick and looks bad but I hope he will get well soon again.

Dear Samantha, I looked anctiously for a letter from you for the last few days but got none. The rest of the boys all got letters but I was disappointed but maybe I will get one today. I would like to hear from home again. The last letter I got was wrote the 28th of April and this is 16 days ago and I know there is some more that ought to be here by this time for some of the boys got letters that come in 3 days. But maybe I will get one after a while so I will wait patiently. I am still in good hopes of getting home before very long and then we will not have to wait for letters nor write when we want to talk to each other.

We drawed some good fat beef last night and we have some fried for breakfast and had some boiled with beans for dinner, so we live well today. I would as soon stay here as any place I have seen in the South but I know I ought to be at home to take care of you so I dont feel contented. But I hope the day is not far off when I can be at home again.

We had to go to Catholic meeting again and heard the most ridiculous sermon but I will tell you all about it when I get home. O what a happy day it will be when I get home, if we are all spared so long, and I hope to find you all alive and well. We dont know how soon we will leave here. There is no more signs of it now than there was a week ago but we wont know anything about it until we are just ready to start. But I am sure we will get home before very long so dont trouble any more about me but wait patiently. I wish I knew whether you are all well yet. I would feel so much better contented but I will stop writing for this time. I have read my testament through once and partly again. It has been a great comfort to me. Samantha,

direct your letters to
 35 Ind Vol Inf
 1st Division
 4 Corps and

then they wont go any farther and if we go back to
 Indianapolis they will stop there. From your affectionate
 husband

Josiah Kimes
 To
 Samantha

Camp near Nashville, Tennessee
 May 15, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines to you this evening although I wrote a letter yesterday. I am still well and hearty and I hope you are all well. I have not got any letters yet. I looked very anxiously for one today but no mail came in but perhaps I will get one before long. Daniel is some better and I hope he will get well soon again. The boys are all in good spirits and in hopes of getting home soon.

The reason of my writing this evening is to tell you to try and draw your money that the State has appropriated to soldiers families for I know you need it and you have a right to it. I seen a Indiana paper today and seen the Secretary of State's report. Every child is allowed two dollars a month and a woman four or eight, I forget which. (That is children under twelve years old.) So there would be seventy dollars or more coming to you and if you can get only a part of it, it would help you. I wish you would try and get some one to get it for you right off and get all you can for you have a right to it for we have to help to pay the tax and you cant get the money. Get what you can and get an order to the store. You had better send some one immediately. Perhaps you can get Jessy¹ or Jacob Dermott² to go and you can pay whomever goes. You had better write an order and send it to the township trustee and state how many children you have and that your health is poor and that you have not drawed any yet and

1 Probably Jessee Headley, a neighbor.

2 Jacob Dermott has not been positively identified.

that you are in need, for I know you are. If I could draw some pay to send to you I would like it but I dont expect to draw any til we are mustered out. I dont know but I might write you an order and send it in this letter.

Tuesday morning, May 16

My Dear Samantha,

As I commenced writing last evening but had not time to finish, I will write some more this morning. I was mistaken in the amount you are entitled to. It is eight dollars a month for you and the children which would make quite a sum by this time. I have wrote to you just as I think and you can do just as you think best. If I had some money to send to you I would feel better satisfied for I know you need it and Samantha, if you do send any one you can tell him how much is allowed you and he can get just as much as he can.

Dear Samantha, I have a notion to write an order and put it in [this] letter and you can do about sending it as you think best. Perhaps you can get an order so you can get things at the store and you can send some one to trade for you and can trade the balance when you please. But I have wrote enough about it. I am still well and hope you are the same. I have some notion of going to town today. Samantha, you must not let any one see this letter and if I send you an order you will have to date it I expect but I dont know as it will make any difference. After I get home you can not draw any of it.

But dear family, good bye for this time. Remember me, your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

Josiah remarked only briefly on the grand review for General Thomas. About a week after it had been held, another event took place, this time apparently organized on a spontaneous basis, in honor of the commanding officer of the 4th Corps, General Stanley. Josiah described this more fully in one of the letters which he continued to write to Samantha almost daily while the 35th Indiana remained at Camp Harker.

Camp near Nashville
May 17 A.D. 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines this morning as an answer to a letter I got yesterday dated the 6th instant and No. 22. The last one I got before was No. 20 so I have missed one and there are several more back that I have not got. But perhaps I will get them after a while. Yesterday I was to town and walked all day and was very tried but last evening when I got back there was a letter for me and how happy I was to hear from home again and hear that you was all well. I did not feel a bit tired when I found that there was a letter for me. I had not got any letters for some time and began to think you was sick so you could not write but I was glad to hear that you was still well as common.

And Dear Samantha, when you are sick you must not undertake to write yourself but you can get some one to write a few lines. Try and take good care of yourself for I dont think I will get home so soon. I wish I could for I would like to see you all so well! And be there to take care of you but I have to stay here till they get ready to send me home. I think we will get home before very long.

I will now tell you what kind of a time we had last night. A few days ago the boys circulated the news and set last night to go to Corps Headquarters to see and surprise and have a speech from Major General Stanley, commander of the 4th Corps. Last night just at dark the boys all came out with a candle and some had as many as a dozen on a round board and a handle to it so they could hold them up and you could see all kinds of lanterns made of greased paper and some with 15 or 20 candles in them. All kinds of shapes and all kinds of inscriptions on them that men could think of, such as Hang Old Jeff Davis. Old Jeff with Missy Jeffs clothes on and had his photograph with womens clothes on and it looked as natural as life itself and under it was General Stanley, the hero of Franklin. And in fact you could see any thing that a person ever thought of. It is about a mile from here to headquarters and it was a splendid sight. When we got in the road it looked as though it was made of fire as far as one could see and when we got to headquarters, which is in a nice grove of large trees, the column wound up to a

mass and some of the boys climbed up on the trees until they looked as though they were all on fire. The General stood in the center and made a short speech which was quite cheering. He said we would get home in a short time but could not say for certain when and he was followed by speeches from three other officers which were very interesting. But Dear Samantha, I can tell [you] better when I get home than I can write it to you. I am still well and I hope you are all still well too. Keep in good cheer and let us put our trust in the Lord for he does all things well.

I must stop writing for this time. I dont know as I can send this out til tomorrow and I may write some more in the morning.

Josiah

Camp near Nashville, Tennessee
May 22, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will try and write a few lines today although I dont think the mail will go out today but perhaps it will in a few days. We got no mail yesterday. The last letter I got was dated 6 May which is 16 days ago and I am very anctious to hear from home again. I am sure there are several letters that ought to be here by this time but I think I will get one when the mail comes in again. I dont know when we will get any more mail but we look for some tonight. Everything seems quiet here now and we dont know how long we will have to stay here yet. I dont think more than a week or two but we cant tell much about it, only what we guess at for we dont get much news. I wish I knew what they are a going to do with us or how soon we will get to go home. Then we would be more contented. I am still midling well and I do hope you are all well and getting along as well as possible. I have had the diarea some for the last few days and have not a very good appetite and the sight of hard tack is enough to last me two or three days but I feel some better today than I did yesterday and I think I will be all sound in a few days again. I will not write any more now for the mail does not go out today.

Thursday, May 23

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few more lines to this and send it off as the mail is going out again. It had been stopped for the last four or five days but we got a mail this afternoon. There was no letter for me but perhaps I will get one tomorrow so I will wait patiently. We get no news about moving so we can not tell how long we will have to stay here yet but I hope we will move home before long for I am anxious to see you all and I know I ought to be at home to take care of you. I hope you are well and getting along well. I have not been very well for the last few days but I am some better today and I think I will feel well in a few days again. Samantha, keep up good spirits and don't trouble yourself about me for we will all be home before very long. Well, Samantha, this is very poor writing but maybe you can read it and if you can is all I ask. I will stop writing for this evening. The mail does not go out till tomorrow but I will write a little more in the morning. So good bye for tonight,

Josiah

Friday morning, the 26th

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines more this morning. I feel a great deal better this morning and I hope you are all well and I hope to be there before long to see you all. We heard yesterday that we would be mustered out before long but whether it is so we can't tell. I wish I could hear from home again and hear how you are getting along by this time but maybe I will get a letter today. I am in good hopes of getting home soon and then I won't have to wait for letters. I am in good spirits and hope that you are the same.

Your affectionate husband

Josiah

Camp Harker, near Nashville
May 28 A.D. 1865

Dear Samantha,

Last evening I received a letter from you and was

happy to get another letter from home but I felt sad to hear that you was sick. It was dated 15 May and No. 23. O I wish I knew how you was by this time. I do hope you will get along well and soon be over your troubles and be well again. We are still laying here in camp and cant tell anything about it, how long we will stay here yet. We have been here about four weeks now and when we came here we did not expect to stay near this long. But I guess we will get home after a while. We cant tell how soon.

I have not felt very well for about a week but I am some better now and feeling midling well today. Daniel has got about well and the rest are all well.

This is a beautiful Sunday and the boys are most all down to Catholic meeting but I could not go and dont intend to go any more if I can help it for I have heard enough of such stuff. How I would like to be at home today to be with you or to go to meeting there. I have not much news to write today so you must excuse a short letter.

Samantha, when you are sick you must not try to write yourself but get some one to write a little for you. Try and be cheerful for it does us no good to fret and trouble ourselves. We will trust in the Lord and be patient.

From your faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

Camp Harker near Nashville
May 29, 1865

Dear Wife,

Last evening I received another letter from you. It was No. 24 and was wrote the 17th and in it was a few lines wrote the 18th by Julia Headley¹ which stated that we had another girl at our house. Bully for the girl. It must be good looking anyhow, for Julia said it looks like its mother. I am very happy to hear that you felt so well and I do hope you got along well and feel well by this time for it is eleven days since. I wish I knew how you are by this time. Well, Samantha, I hope I will soon get home to see that little treasure and all of you and I hope I will find you all well and hearty. But Samantha, we dont know any

1 Wife of Jessee Headley; neighbors.

thing about when we will get home [except that] when ever the War Department issues orders to muster us out then we will get home. There may be such orders now but if there was we would not know it so we cant tell any thing about it.

I feel well today and am on duty.

That letter had a half a dollar in it. Our officers are making out payrolls now and maybe we will get some pay before long and maybe not. We dont know for they made out rolls once or twice before and we got none. But I can not write much this time but will write soon again and perhaps I will have more news.

From your loving and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Camp Harker near Nashville
June 2, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will try and write a few lines to you this morning although I have not much news to write. We are still lying here in camp and waiting for I dont know what and I expect we will get it! Well, Samantha, these are weary and loathsome days but they are passing one by one and I hope there will happier days come before long but we can not tell how long we will have to stay here yet but we will ly and wait patiently until they get ready to send us home.

Daniel Faunce is here with us now [but] he is a going to start for his regiment. His descriptive list was sent to the 13th (Indiana Volunteers) and he belongs to the same regiment that B Alton¹ does. He is a going to start in a few days but a great many think he will not have to go any farther than Indianapolis and from there home. Byron Woodcox went to Division headquarters and takes his place. I think we will either get payed here in a few days or sent to Indiana and maybe both. I may be mistaken but that is the opinion of most all now. The weather is very warm here now and I would like to go farther north where it is not quite so hot.

I hope these few lines will find you all well and in good spirits. I feel well this morning but I had a chill

1 Benjamin Alton of DeKalb Co., Indiana.

yesterday afternoon while I was on guard which went rather tuft. I think I will get over it in a few days but I am getting poor and feel sick but I feel well this morning. Maybe I wont have any more chills.

Samantha, keep in good cheer and wait patiently and try and get along as well as you can. I think we will get home some time this month but keep on writing. Samantha, I will have to send my letters without stamps for I am out. Remember me, your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

The boys say I begin to look like I did when I left home last faul. I wish I could get another letter from home and hear how you are by this time. The one I got last was wrote 17 and 18 May which is over two weeks but maybe I will get one soon again.

The transfer of Daniel Faunce to the 13th Indiana Regiment was pursuant to a Special Order sent by the Department of the Cumberland Headquarters in Nashville on 27 May 1865. This order directed the commanding officer of the 35th Indiana to forward 21 named soldiers, including Daniel Faunce, to the headquarters of the 13th Indiana Regiment-Infantry, Army of the James. In February and again in April 1865, Colonel Tassin had asked the commanding officer of the Draft Rendezvous in Indianapolis to send him the Muster and Descriptive Rolls for men assigned to his regiment whose names did not appear on the Muster Roll of the 35th. In these communications he stated that as the men had already served almost six months, the shortest way to rectify the matter would be to ship the records rather than the men and thus enable them to be paid. The reply stated that "in a great many cases the rolls cannot be found at this office." He later received the Muster and Descriptive Rolls for some 30 men then with his regiment, along with "a list of names of men who were assigned and forwarded to the 13th Ind. Vols. November 18, 1864 but by some mistake are now serving under you." The men in question were to be sent to their proper regiment, as their rolls had already been forwarded to that regiment. In the Morning Report of the 35th Indiana for May 1865, the name of Daniel Faunce appears with those of others sent that day to their proper unit.

From his letters, it does not appear that Josiah Kimes was aware for some time of the orders issued on 5 June regarding the reorganization of the 4th Army Corps or that these specified that the troops which were to be mustered out immediately were only those

whose terms of service expired before 1 October 1865. He was preoccupied with the news of the birth of his daughter and he continued to speculate, more or less hopefully, about his own release until rumors could not longer be disbelieved and reality had to be faced.

Camp near Nashville, Tennessee
6 June 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines this morning although I have got no letter since the one you wrote May 17 and 18. I know you are anxious to hear from me and I would be very glad to hear from home again and to know how you are getting along by this time but it may be I will get a letter some of these days.

Well, Samantha, I am happy to tell you that I feel better this morning than I have for about two weeks. I have been having the ague or chills but I have had no chill now for three or four days. I went to town yesterday and when I got back last evening I had some fever but I feel well this morning and if I don't have any more chills I will soon be stout again. I don't think I will have any more. I am getting a better appetite but still I don't like hard tack and fat pork. I had a good breakfast this morning. I had some tea and bread and some beef liver. I went over where they were a butchering and bought a dime's worth of liver. It was the last dime of that half dollar you sent. I bought milk with the most of it. I seen a great many nice things in town yesterday but that done no good for I had no money to buy with.

David Kimes is still in town. Daniel Faunce went with me to town and we traveled all over town till we were tired out. We was in the State house. It is by far the nicest building I ever saw. We was all through the magazine and we seen the monument of James R. Polk, 10 President of the U. S. We saw a great many nice things but I was completely tired out before I got back to camp and had some fever but I feel better this morning again.

Dear Samantha, I do hope this will find you all well and hearty and getting along well and in good spirits. We are still lying here in the same old camp, all quiet, and we can not tell how long we will have to stay here yet. One day we hear that we are a going to be payed off and probably

the next that we are a going to Indiana in a few days. There are so many stories going all the time and none of them true, so we cant tell any thing about it. When we get home we will know it then.

The weather is awful hot here now especially in the middle of the day. I seen corn yesterday as tall as I am and large cucumbers and new potatoes and peas and cherries and if I had the money I could get a plenty to eat but everything is dear. I got a can of peaches at the sutlers and had to pay a dollar and I got some dried apples and had to pay 25 cents a pound. I got them on trust but if I would have had the money I could have got them cheaper. I hope we will soon be home where we can have a plenty and not have to buy of sutlers but I have wrote enough for this time, or rather scribbled enough, so I will stop for this time. From your loving and affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Camp Harker near Nashville, Tennessee
Thursday morning, 8 June 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write an answer to your letter that I received last evening. It was wrote the 30 and 31st of May. It is the first one that I have got since the one you wrote in which Julia Headley wrote a few lines the 18th stating that you was sick. I was very happy to hear from home again and to hear that you were able to be up and around. Dear Samantha, I hope you will get stout and healthy again and that when I get home I will find you all well and hearty. If you can get any medicine that does you any good get it and use it all the time or as long as it does any good.

I am well now. I have not had any chills for five days. I was on guard yesterday and last night. I dont feel as stout as I did before I was sick and am poor but I feel well and I will soon get stout again. The rest of the boys are all well. Daniel Faunce is still here. He is well and hearty.

Everything seems quiet here now except some camp rumors and they are very numerous and of all kinds. I think we will get some pay before long but whether we will get to come home we cant tell or whether we will go some where else or stay here a while yet. I will tell you,

Samantha, we are just like a yoke of oxen. We dont know what they are a going to do with us, whether they are a going to drive us a while yet or let us stand still or unyoke us but whenever they pull the yoke we will show them which way we will go. But enough of this. Samantha, I dont hardly know what to write. I dont think of any thing that would be interesting to you.

Samantha, I wrote to you some time ago about getting the money that is allowed you by the State and when you write again tell me if you ever got any or not or whether you tried to get it. You and the children are entitled to 14 dollars a month. I heard James Abel say that Russel Coburn went through that township to see how many women and children there was and you belong to that town for I was drafted there. When you write tell me if you have heard any thing about it. You must try and get some one to tend to it for you.

Dear Samantha, I have nothing more to write now but keep in good cheer, rest contented and wait patiently and maybe we will see each other before long. Remember me your affectionate husband

Josiah
To Samantha Kimes

Camp Harker near Nashville
10 June 1865

Dear Samantha.

I will write a few lines to you as an answer to your letter of the 4th instant which I was made the happy recipient of last evening. Your letter was wrote last Sunday and I got it on Friday. I was very glad to get a letter from you written so late and to hear that you was getting along so well and I was surprised to hear that you was doing your own work. Samantha, I think you had better keep a girl and not do too much yourself and maybe your health might get better than it used to be. Samantha, I am happy to tell you that I am still a gaining yet and feel quite well today. The boys are all well as common. I am on guard today and had no time to write this morning and so it will not go out today. So I will not write any more today but I will write in the morning earley and it will go out at nine o'clock Sunday morning.

11 June

Dear Samantha,

I will try and finish my letter this morning. The letter you wrote last Sunday I got last Friday evening and I would have liked to answer it sooner but I could not for I had no time yesterday morning. We had to police and had inspection and I had to go on guard mount. I was on guard yesterday but today I am off duty till noon. I am well this morning and I hope this may find you all well and enjoying yourselves as well as possible. The boys are all well. Daniel Faunce is a going to leave today for his regiment. He belongs to the same regiment that B. Alton does. There is twenty-four going with him. They all belong to the same regiment and came here through a mistake but a good many think they will not go farther than Indianapolis but will be mustered out there. I am sorry to have Daniel Faunce leave us but if I knew he was a going home I would be glad of it for I like to see all go home that can get off.

Samantha, your letter had a dollar in it. I was glad to get it but I am afraid you are robbing yourself for I know you need money, for you had ought to keep a girl to work for you and not go to work so soon yourself.

Well, Samantha, keep in good spirits and in good cheer and get along as well as you can. Dont look for us home till you know we are a coming for we dont know when we will get to come home. There is a report here now that we are a going to be sent off some where else. I dont believe it but we cant tell any thing about it. You must try and get some body to cut and take care of the wheat for I dont think now that I will get home in time to cut it and if I do that will be so much the better. We can tell better in a week or two. Samantha, keep on writing and I will write often but I have wrote enough for this time so I will stop by asking you to remember and pray for me your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Although he probably was unaware of it, the last three letters which Josiah wrote before leaving Camp Harker reflected the efforts of his army superiors to bring order into the routine of army life and into preparations for the next move. On 7 June the commanding officer of the 35th, Colonel Tassin, issued a general order having to do with the

eradication of and punishment for the drunken behavior which was so abhorrent to Josiah. That the order seemingly was directed at correcting the behavior of enlisted men may be beside the point. It noted the prevalence of intoxication and was issued "considering the large amount of pay soon to be received by this Regiment and the facilities offered to the men to purchase intoxicating drinks by mercenary and dishonest persons." Enlisted men returning to camp were to be examined for drunkenness by the officers of the day and were to be severely punished, as well as reported to the commanding officer if found to be intoxicated. Drunkenness in camp was also to be punished and the commanding colonel declared that he would "mete out punishment" himself to company commanders who neglected their duty with regard to this particular order.

Colonel Tassin's order referred to the fact that the men of the regiment were about to receive their pay. Men who were being mustered out received their money and there was a supplementary muster for pay of "all such recruits and drafted men as are or soon may be transferred to the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division." This latter category included Josiah and he received some money at long last.

Payment having been made, arrangements which were in final stages could be put into effect for departure of the reorganized 4th Corps from Camp Harker. Orders covering that move read as follows: "In accordance with the instructions received from Lieutenant-General Grant, the veteran portion of the Fourth Army Corps will proceed by the most practicable route to New Orleans, La., to report on arrival to Major-General Canby, commanding Military Division of West Mississippi." It was specified that the route would be "to Johnsonville by railroad, thence by steam-boat." The men were to carry three days' rations in their haversacks when they left Nashville and ten days' rations when they left Johnsonville. In their "boxes" the men were to carry "the ordinary forty rounds of cartridges." As regards the 35th, its commander was directed to turn in all property and transportation appertaining to the pontoon train at once.

Under the reorganized 4th Army Corps, the 35th Indiana Regiment was assigned to the 2nd Brigade, commanded by Colonel I. C. B. Suman, in the 1st Division, Brevet Major-General Nathan Kimball commanding. On 16 June the order was given for all troops of the 2nd Brigade to be held in readiness to march on the morning of 17 March.

*Camp Harker near Nashville, Tennessee
Wednesday, 14 June 1865*

Dear Samantha,

I will commence writing a letter this morning. I dont

know as I will have time to finish it this morning before the mail goes out but I will write some anyhow and finish when I can.

I am well and hearty again and I do hope and trust this may find you all well and in good spirits. The boys are all well now that are here. We got some pay yesterday but some of us did not get very much. I got seventy-eight dollars while others that was drafted the same day and have drawed more clothes got from 6 to 25 dollars more. James Abel got 84 dollars and he had drawed more clothes than I have and Daniel got 81 dollars but it is the Captains fault in the way he made out the payrolls for he is drunk most all the time. Alexander Lawer was drafted nine days after we was and drawed the same amount of clothes at Kendalville and he got one hundred and four dollars so you can see about how business is done here among our officers but we have to stand it. I went to the Captain and asked him why there was so much difference but he was drunk and gave me no satisfaction so we have just to put up with it and let it go. So I got 78 dollars and I owed Daniel five dollars and the sutler six so I only have 67 dollars left. I think I will send 50 or 60 dollars of it home but I will wait a few days.

There was an order read to us last evening on dress parade that all the men in the regiment who's time is out before the first of October are to be mustered out immediately so you can see we are six days behind time for we was drafted on the sixth day of October. But it will be our turn after a while but I guess we will have to stay a while yet. I dont think it will be very long but I will wait patiently and the time will come after a while when I will get to go home, too. But Samantha, you must try and get some one to cut our harvest for I dont think now that I will get home in time to do any harvesting. I wish I could but I think it looks rather doubtful now but still we cant tell much about it for some of our officers say there will another squad go out soon after this one. Dear Samantha, I will write you another letter in a few days and maybe I can tell more about it. Daniel will have quite a pile [of money] to send home. He got more than I did and he owed none and there was several of us boys owed him 4 or five dollars apiece, so he will have considerable to send home. I would not care much about money if we was only on our way home or at home. But I must stop writing for the mail

will soon go out.

Samantha, be cheerful and get along as well as possible til [I] get home and remember me, your faithful and affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

Camp Harker near Nashville
Thursday evening, 15 June 1865

My Dear Family,

I am glad that I can write to you and tell you that I am still well and hearty. Yet it is with a sad and sorrowful heart that I write this letter to you for but a few days ago we had strong hopes of getting home and seeing our dear families soon. But now there has a sudden change taken place and that hope is almost gone for we have orders to go to New Orleans and part of this Corps started today. The wagon train is a going to march through to Johnsonville. It is about one hundred miles from here and the artillery has gone the same way. We dont know whether we will go on the cars but at Johnsonville we will take the boats and go down the Tennessee River into the Ohio River and then down the Ohio to Cairo and then down the Mississippi to New Orleans and then we dont know where we will go from there. The order may yet be countermanded but it looks rather doubtful yet. We can not tell what will be done. I hope it may for I would like so well to see my dear family again and for quite a while we have had our minds set on getting home soon for we knew the war was over and I felt cheerful and happy to think that we was going to get home soon! But now for such a change to take place and to think that we have to go near a thousand miles farther from home is enough to make the strongest mind feel sad and sorrowful. I can not fully believe that we will go now, will not until we get to going down the Mississippi River (for I can not see any reason for sending us down there). Then I shall have to believe it but if I have got to go all my trust is in the Lord and I will hope on to the end and try and live faithful to his cause. Dear Samantha, let us pray that our faith may be increased and that we may live humble followers of our blessed Redeemer and that we may meet again to mingle our voices in his praise.

Samantha, I expressed fifty dollars home to Butler Station. I sent it with Daniel and directed it to Father and when he gets it you had better get it and use what you need if it takes all. I wrote to Father to let you have it as you wanted it, a part at a time or all at once. You can do as you see best.

Samantha, I will write no more this morning for I am on guard but I will finish in the morning. Perhaps I will have some more news to write then, so good bye for tonight.

Friday morning, 16 June

Dear Samantha,

I will write some more this morning. I am still well and hearty and do hope you are well and enjoying yourselves as well as possible. There is about two hundred men a going to leave this regiment this morning for home and I wish I was one of the number. But they are only a going to muster out those who's time is out before the first [of] October so we will have to stay a while yet but there may be an order to muster out another squad in a short time.

Well, Samantha, we have still the same orders this morning and I think we will leave here tomorrow. I expect this will be the last letter I will write at this place and I may not get a chance to write again for some time and so I will write a long letter this time. When we are on the move we have no chance to write nor send out letters and if we should have to go clear to the Gulf it will take a letter a long time to get home. But I dont believe that they will take any men down there that have got more than three or four months to serve. We may have to go part of the way but I dont believe that we will have to go all the way and if we should have to we will not have to stay long but will come right back again. But it would be a long long trip! The men I spoke of going home just now started. There was about three hundred of them and you could hardly believe how cheerful and happy they felt to think that they were going home.

Josiah

Chapter 6

Down the Mississippi to New Orleans 19 June - 7 July 1865

In anticipation of the departure of the 4th Army Corps for New Orleans, the commander of the corps issued his own orders on 7 June 1865, informing the units under his command which were affected that the move would take place "as soon as payment now progressing is completed." The order further specified that the corps would go first to Johnsonville by rail and then travel by boat. Three days' rations for the men were to be carried in haversacks from Nashville and ten days' rations from Johnsonville. The men themselves were to carry "the ordinary forty rounds of cartridges in their boxes." The specific number of wagons and ambulances which were to be retained for each division was given, and all property "appertaining to the pontoon bridge" was to be turned in. The reorganization itself, under the command of Colonel I. C. B. Suman, was to include the following regiments: 9th Indiana, 35th Indiana, 30th Indiana, 38th Illinois, 21st Illinois and the 36th Indiana (detachment).

As shown by the letters of Josiah Kimes, the payrolls were made out and the men were paid. Presumably the other preparations proceeded apace, as the commanding officer of the 35th, following orders from the headquarters of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, directed his command to be ready to march on the morning of 17 June 1865. On the 18th, after his regiment had boarded the U.S. Steamer Cora S and was traveling down the Tennessee River, he directed company commanders to take steps to make the men as comfortable as possible under the circumstances. They were also to arrange for each company to stack arms in front of or near the space occupied by the men, and to see that there were three roll calls and one regular guard mounting each day. Two days later he ordered company commanders to inspect their troops twice a day, without arms, and to take the necessary precautions for the safety and comfort of the men, adding that "there is no time like the present for

the men to keep their arms and accoutrements in the best order."

Josiah next wrote from the Cora S as it made its way down the Tennessee.

19 June 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines today but I dont know when I will get a chance to send it out. We are on the boat now and on our way from Johnsonville this morning but before we left there this morning I got two letters from you. One was an old one, the first you wrote since you was sick and the other was rote 9 June. I was very glad to get a letter and to hear that you were still well.

We left Nashville last Saturday and we got to Johnsonville in the night and we laid on the boat all day yesterday. It was a long and dreary day to be Sunday but it did not seem like Sunday at all.

Samantha, I got my likeness taken to send to you and I will send it in this letter as soon as I get a chance to send it off for I know you would like to see how I look by this time. I should have got it taken a month or two ago while I was fat so you could have seen what a big fat fellow I was but I am very lean now. I had the chills a couple of weeks. That and the hot weather together has taken the fat off of me but I feel quite as well now as I did while I was so fleshy. I am still well and I do hope you are all well and hearty.

Samantha, I dont think now that we will get home for a while yet. This Corps is ordered to New Orleans and is on its way now. I think we will stop at Paducah and at Cairo and Memphis and we may not have to go all the way down to New Orleans. The soldiers all think very hard of it that they have to go down there now when the war is over and especially this time of the year while it is so hot. They all say they would a great deal rather go through an active campaign and fight rebs every day than go down there now. They are very much dissatisfied (excepting officers) with the government for sending them down there now when there is no more rebels in arms and they can see no use of it. Some have been away from their homes for three or four years and have finally whipped the rebels out and expected soon to get home and now to be sent down there seems rather hard. But Samantha, if we do have to go we

will not have to stay long for the one year is about over and we will soon all get out. We have only a little over three months to serve any more and by the time we would get there and stay a month or so, they would have to start us back again. I dont believe yet that they will send us all the way here, especially men that have not more than three or four months to serve.

Samantha, the boat shakes so that I can not write very well so I will quit till it stops and then I will finish it and send it out. I think we will stop at Paducah tonight and ly there until morning.

Tuesday the 20th of June

Dear Samantha,

I will write a little more this morning. We are on the boats lying at Cairo. We got here some time last night and will leave in a short time. Samantha, I think now that we will all have to go to New Orleans and from there we dont know where we will go but I cant write much this morning for I want to send this out before we leave here if I can. I will send my likeness in this and I will write again and send you some more news. I am still well as usual and hope you are all the same. The boys are all well but Jacob Yarnell. He is not very well. I hope we wont have to stay very long down on the Gulf or in Texas or whereever they are a going to send us. Samantha, keep in good cheer and hope for better days. If I am spared I will get home in three or four months anyhow but I dont think we will have to stay so long. It will be awful hot down there and it is hot enough here but we have to stand it as long as we can. Samantha, you will hardly know my likeness but I will send it anyhow. I had to pay a dollar for it but I thought you would like to have it. Well, I must stop writing for this time. Remember and pray for me, your loving and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes
To his Family

June the 22nd

Dear Wife,

I will commence writing a letter this morning but we

are still on the boat and it shakes so I can not write very well but perhaps you can read it. We are now on a boat going down the Mississippi River and where we will stop we dont know yet. We left Nashville on the 17th and went to Johnsonville on the cars and there we got on a boat on Sunday the 18th and we have been on the boat ever since. On Monday we left Johnsonville and got to Cairo the next morning and stopped till ten o'clock and then we started down the Mississippi River and got to Memphis last evening and stopped to take on coal and left some time in the night. About an hour ago we passed Helena. I am awful tired of staing and riding on the boat already but we will have to stand it a good while yet for we have only come between five and six hundred miles and if we stop at New Orleans we will have eight hundred more to go. Every day takes us over a hundred miles farther from home. It seems very hard to think of it but we will have to bear it patiently and it may not be long (if our lives are spared) til we will be going back again but the Lord only knows and we will have to trust in him.

Samantha, I got my likeness taken at Johnsonville and I put it in a letter and put it in the post office in Cairo. I do hope you will get it for I know you would like to have it. It is not a very good one but if it should be that I never get home again it will be some comfort to you to have it.

Although we are quite uncomfortable being crowded on the boat and have to drink river water and have no way to cook, yet there is not much sickness if any in the regiment. There is a great deal of danger on these steam boats on this river. We just now passed a dead man floating on the water among the drift wood. He had on soldiers clothes and looks as though he has been dead for several weeks. The boats never stopped to pick up the dead body but left it floating on.

But Samantha, dont trouble yourself nor fret about me more than you can help. The health of the soldiers is generally good and I feel well and hearty now and I think I will be just as likely to stay well and live three months longer here as I would at home. If I do I will get home then anyhow but I think yet that we will get there sooner. Perhaps we will not stay down there but a very short time till we will be ordered back again.

Samantha, we had some ripe apples last evening. The peddling women brought ripe apples and cherries and

plums and bread and pies and cakes on the boat but they are dear. If I had known for certain that we was coming down here I would have kept some more money but I will get along with what I have got.

Samantha, get some one to tend to it and get all the money you can from the State fund and write all about it. If you get that likeness tell me how it looks by the side of that other and what you think of it. Write all the news you can. I will stop writing for now and when I get a chance to send a letter out I will finish this and when we get through I will write you a long letter and tell you more about our trip. The sun shines very hot yet the nights are cool. But I will stop now.

Josiah

Friday morning, June the 23rd

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a little more this morning but the boat shakes too much to write. I am still well and sailing down the river. I think we will reach Vicksburg some time today and it may be the mail will go out there. Our boat landed last night and we went out on Arkansas shore and cooked our supper and laid down and slept til morning but we started again at daylight. There is as many as 25 or 30 boats in this fleet all loaded with soldiers of the Fourth Corps but there is a great number of the men desert and leave every time they can get to shore. There has 5 or 6 left our company since we started and some companies have lost more and it is so all through this Corps. The name of the boat that our regiment is on is the "Cora." It is not a very large boat.

Samantha, try and get the wheat cut and stacked some place where it will be safe and maybe I will get home in time to thrash it and take care of it. But I cannot write any more now. Remember and pray for me, your faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Write often. Samantha, I dont hardly know which way is the best to direct your letters but direct them to 2nd Brig 1st Div 4th Corps 35th Ind Vol and I think best by via of Indianapolis. Dear Samantha, write often and send me all

the news you can. I do hope you are all well and that I may soon come home and find you all alive and well. Tell me where you keep your cow and whether she is in the woods and how you get her and if you have that heifer yet and how many hogs you have yet and how you get your wheat cut and if you got that money and coat.

Camp Jackson, 7 miles below
New Orleans, Louisiana
Monday, 26 June 1865

My Dear Samantha,

I will write you another letter this morning to let you know where we are and that I am still well and hearty. After lying on that old boat eight days and one on the cars we landed here last evening and went into camp. We are about seven miles below New Orleans. We were very glad to get to go in camp again for we were dreadful tired of staying on the boat. We was so crowded and a good share of us had to stay on the top of the boat where we had no shade at all and had it not been for the breeze on the river, the sun would have almost cooked us. We had no water to drink nor use but the river water in which we could every little while see a dead man floating and plenty of dead mules and horses and all the filth of thousands of men which makes it rather hard to drink. We are no better here but we have a midling nice camp and I dont think it is as hot here as it is in Nashville. The sun shines very hot but there is a cool breeze all the time but at noon the sun is almost strait over us.

Samantha, we have seen many splendid scenes on our way down here and it is quite a sight to see hundreds of boats lying in the river at New Orleans. The city is eight or nine miles long on the river and the river is full of boats all the way and all kinds of ships - steam ships and steam boats of all kinds and sizes. New Orleans is a large city. It is more than as large again as any city we have seen since we left home. Although we see new things and splended scenes almost every day yet it is not what I want to see. Oh no, no! There is one scene that I would a thousand times rather see and that is my dear family and once happy home. I dont know whether I ever will see it again or not but I hope my life may be spared that I may again get

home to see and support my dear family for I know they need me there.

Dear Samantha, we will still live in hopes that we may see each other again although we are many many miles apart now. With the Lord all things are possible and if it is His will I may yet get home to the embrace of my dear family. Well Samantha, I am yet in hopes that we will not have to stay very much longer for it may be that they will send us back again before very long for I dont see any thing to do or keep us here unless they send us on to Texas. Some think they will send us on to Galveston but we dont know any thing about it yet but let them send us where they like. It wont be long if we live until they will have to start us towards home again and it may be we will start within a week. We know not.

Samantha, I wrote two letters while we was on our way down here. One I sent out at Cairo. It has my likeness in it. I hope you will get it. The other went out at Vicksburg.

Samantha, there is green corn here now and melons and ripe apples and tomatoes and plums and cherries and the oranges are large but green yet. There is a plenty of figs growing down here and a great many kinds of curious things.

Samantha, I wrote to you at Nashville that I sent home fifty dollars. I gave it to the Chaplain. He was going to Indianapolis and said he would express it from there to Butler Station. I sent it with Daniel and directed it to Father and I wrote to him [Father] to let you have it just as you wanted it, a part at a time or all at once as you wished. Use it all if you need it. You will need some to hire the wheat cut and to hire a girl and to get clothes. Samantha, try and get the wheat cut in time and get it stacked where it will be safe from fire and let it set a while. Maybe I will get home in time to thrash it and take care of it.

I expressed my overcoat to Butler. Me and Daniel put ours in a box and sent it to Fathers. Mine is marked and I sent some lead to shoot squirrels with when I get home. When you write tell me if you get that likeness and if you get that money and coat. Write long letters and often, Samantha.

There is one brigade of our division coming in camp now. The boats land up near town. They have to march down here just as we did and they are so warm they look as though they would sink down and some do. It is a

raining here today but it is very warm and the grass is beginning to grow again.

Samantha, I have not got much news to write to you this time, so I will stop writing by asking you to be cheerful and happy and remember your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

There can be little doubt that the chaplain to whom Josiah gave his fifty dollars for safekeeping and transmittal to Butler Station, Indiana for Samantha, was in fact the "old Catholic priest" whom he had railed against in months past. Father Peter Paul Cooney was among those whose term of service entitled him to discharge before the 4th Corps left Tennessee for Louisiana. He was discharged at Camp Harker on 16 June 1865 and when he returned to Indiana he took with him a large amount of money deposited with him by soldiers for transmittal to their families back home. One of the surviving accounts of money which Father Cooney took with him on his return to Notre Dame after discharge is entitled "Deposits since 1st May 1865" and it lists deposits ranging from \$50 to \$450, with the names of the soldiers who entrusted their money to him. Josiah's name does not appear on this list, nor that of his brother Daniel, who may have been the one who actually gave both of their monies to Father Cooney. This is the last reference made by Josiah Kimes in his letters to the "old priest."

Time was standing still for Josiah but he continued to write to Samantha, giving her at least some idea of his life in Louisiana.

Camp Jackson, New Orleans, Louisiana
28 June 1865

Dear Samantha,

I have wrote a few lines of poetry on this sheet this forenoon and I will now write a few lines on this side. I had nothing to do this forenoon so I thought I would write a few verses for you for I know you like to read such verses. Although they are not very good, yet I expect you will be glad to get them but dear Samantha, I dont know whether they will ever get home for it is a long long way from here there. I have wrote one letter since we are here and two while on the way down the river. I hope you will get them and if you do you will know most all the news. I can not write much in this.

I am still well and hearty. The boys are all well and

we are still here in camp and dont know how long we will stay here but time is slipping by fast. The Fourth of July will soon be here but it is all played out about us getting home by the Fourth of July. Maybe we will get home some time if we are spared but I believe I would as soon be here as at Nashville. The water is awful bad here but the weather is not much warmer than at Nashville for there is a breeze all the time. While we have money we can get a plenty of every thing to eat but they are dear and I dont buy much. There is hundreds of peddlers in camp every day with pies and cakes and bread, onions, potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, cabage, melons, sausage and a great many other things but they sell them so dear that we cant buy much.

Samantha, we dont know yet where we are a going from here nor how long we have to stay here but there is an awful hard feeling among the soldiers for being sent down here after the war is over and there is some talk of sending them still farther. If they do I should not wonder a bit if the whole Corps would rebel and raise a row and start for home but they say not. For my part I shall take it cool and patiently and make the best of it. I can but there was lots of boys left and deserted on the way down here. Some regiments lost a great many and I dont blame the boys a bit but I intend to stay till they send me home, that is if I live so long. Then I can come home with a clear conscience but it may be we will all get to come home before long. I hope so anyhow. But Samantha, we must wait patiently and keep in good cheer and hope on while life remains and we may yet see each other there before very long. But Samantha, I can not write any more this time but remain your loving and faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

There are gems that are near my heart
 And brightly may they shine
 But with these gems I neer can part
 For there they ever twine

Though I am called to go away
 And leave these gems behind
 Yet I hope to return and see
 That happy little band

Yes they are what they seem to be
 Composes to smiles and tears
 Of tears because I am away
 But smiles when them I see

Yes dearest ones I think of you
 And the day when I can come
 To receive the smiles that wait for me
 And live with you at home

Written by Josiah Kimes to his Family
 Presented to Samantha Kimes, Cora Kimes,
 Ada Kimes, Emma Kimes

Samantha, I had wrote these verses some time ago but they were not very good and I did not know whether to send them or not but I will send them. May you will like to read them.

Although he did not specifically say so, one of the boys who "left and deserted on the way down here" was one of his comrades from Spencerville. According to the official records. John Bloomfield of DeKalb County, member of the 35th Indiana Regiment, deserted on 20 June 1865. He had been mustered in on 25 October 1864 and served as a substitute.

Camp Jackson, New Orleans,
 Louisiana
 1 July 1865

Dear Samantha,

This afternoon I received two letters from you. This is three letters I have got since we have been here, one dated the 16 and one the 18th of June and this is the third one that I have wrote here. I am very glad and happy to hear that you are still all well but you had not yet got the news that we had started down here and I know you will feel bad and awfully disappointed when you get the news and so were we when we got the news that we had to come down here instead of going home but we are down here now and the next question is to know how long we will have to stay here or where we are a going from here but yet I hope we will get to go home before very long.

Samantha, I got that hair you sent of the babys. It is long and dark and O how I wish I could be at home to see that dear little babe and all the rest of you. But Samantha, there is no use of fretting and troubling ourselves more than we can help for it will do no good. I intend to pass off the time as well as I can and get along the best I can. Dear Samantha, you must try and be contented and not trouble yourself so much for I expect yet to come home before long and I want to find you all alive and well. So Samantha, try and be cheerful and get along a little longer. Keep up strong faith and courage and I think it wont be very long til we will see each other again. It is getting late and I will have to stop writing for tonight and I will finish this in the morning.

Sunday morning, 2 July

Dear Samantha,

I will write some more this morning. I am still well and hearty except I have taken a cold within the last few days but I will be over it again in a few days, I think. The weather has been quite wet and showery for the last two days and Samantha, if you was here to see how the wind blows and how it storms here you would think nothing of the storms up there.

Samantha, I will now tell you something about the jangle we had yesterday. When we first came here we was marched into a field along the river where there is scarcely any shade and no woods near and were ordered to go in camp. The men had nothing to stretch their tents on or to make any shade with nor wood to cook with and the officers did not try to get them anything for several days, so they gathered up what they could along the river and went and used an old fence that was along the river. Yesterday there was an order issued that the boys had to pay for the wood and rails they had used to put up their tents with and the charges was four or five times as much as they was worth and the men refused to pay, for they thought it was rather hard after being brought down here to have to buy their wood and sticks to put up tents with and pay four prices for them. But our Colonel issued an order that all the men in this regiment who refused to pay should be taken out and drilled in the hot sun every day

until they dropped dead in their tracks unless they payed. He had several companies out yesterday afternoon and it raised considerable fuss in the regiment. Some have payed but the most have not and say they wont. I have paid mine but you can see by this how the officers treat the soldiers now but some of the officers will have to play sharp if they ever get home alive for they are threatened hard. But enough of this for now!

I think now that the object in bringing this Corps down here is to recruit for the regular army. They thought by taking them as far from home as possible and keeping them here a while and offering bounty and furloughs they would get a good many recruits. They have been issuing whiskey to the boys I think for the same purpose but they dont get me to drink any of their rotgut whiskey if they issue every day! I have bought me a bottle of good wine and I take a little two or three times a day and I think it does me a great deal of good. As long as I have money and can get it I will, for I want to take as good care of myself as I can for I want to get home again (if my life is spared) to see you all and to try to support and raise them dear little children.

Samantha, in my last letter I wrote a few verses or lines of poetry for I know you love to read them and I hope you will get it. And I sent my likeness home I got taken at Johnsonville and put it in the [post] office in Cairo. I hope you will get it also although it is not a very good one. I have told you about it in several letters but you may not get them so I will tell you again.

Well, I have wrote about enough for this time but O how I would like to be at home this beautiful Sabbath day to see you and go to meeting there. But maybe I will get home after a while. We get no news so we cant tell any thing about it how long we will have to stay here yet. Samantha, keep in good cheer and live faithful and trust in the Lord for he doeth all things well. Pray for me your affectionate and loving husband

Josiah to Samantha Kimes

Direct to 2nd Brig 1st Div 4th Corps (via Indianapolis)

The amount of money paid by Josiah as his share of damages to rails and fences is not recorded. However, the incident to which he

referred was a matter of concern and attention for some time. On 25 June 1865 a circular was issued by 4th Army Corps Headquarters in New Orleans which indicated that that Headquarters had been receiving complaints from planters in the area with regard to "houses [which] have been broken into, coops run over and trodden down, fences pulled down and even facings from out of the levees." It was stated that all such depredations were to stop immediately and that division commanding officers were to place safeguards at every house in the vicinity of their camps, as well as guards over all coops and fences and along the river. "If after these measures have been taken to restore order and discipline in the Command these reports of pillaging and disorder keep coming into this Headquarters, the guard will be increased until the whole Command, both officers and enlisted men, are on guard if it cannot be prevented in any other manner." Colonel Suman of the 1st Division issued his own orders stating that he was "pained and mortified to witness an almost total absence of all military discipline in the regiment and organizations," and that regimental commanders who failed to keep discipline and prevent disgrace being brought on their commands were to be subject to dishonorable discharge and muster out of the service. Additionally, he issued an order on 26 July, possibly the one referred to by Josiah, that until further notice the troops were to drill for one hour daily, from 5 to 5:30 a.m. and 6 to 6:30 p.m.

As late as 7 July the question of damages to the plantation owners was still of concern. On that date Colonel Tassin directed company commanders of the 35th to forward at once to his headquarters attested affidavits of the amount of rails burned and destroyed in the vicinity of the camp (given as Chalmette, Louisiana) on the night of 26 June 1865. He must have received compliance with his order almost immediately, as a dispatch signed by Hugh D. Gallagher, Lieutenant Colonel of the 35th Ind Vols, was sent to the Assistant Adjutant-General's office on the same day giving the requested figures on destruction, reached after "a strict inspection of all the materials used by the 35th" and thought to be "if not entirely, very nearly correct": 125 rails, 63 posts and in all 73 feet of level picting, linear measure. On the following day, Colonel Tassin issued a circular which stated that \$22.85 had been paid to date by seven companies of the 35th Regiment and ordered three companies, including Josiah's, to forward their assessed damages at once. Word from 4th Army Headquarters, sent down the same day, directed the attention of brigade, regiment and company commanders to standing regulations regarding the protection of personal property. "Each Brigade commander will direct that when the troops disembark at point of destination, no houses, gardens, crops of any kind, fences or other property be molested or in any degree disturbed and in the event of any such disobedience of orders and destruction of property, the amount of

damage will be assessed on the officers and men of the company found guilty, against their pay." These orders were to be read instead of drill the following day, 9 July, at 9 o'clock in the morning.

This small crisis over, Josiah's letters went on to relate his tiresome camp routine as his regiment marked time.

Camp Jackson, New Orleans
4 July 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines to you today as I dont know of any way that I can more pleasantly spend or celebrate a few hours of this, another Fourth of July Independence Day! Although with many this day will be spent cheerful and happy and many glad hearts will join in the celebration of this another independence day, there are many solemn thoughts in my mind this morning! O yes, my mind reaches home to those dearest ones there, and this thought bears heavy on my mind: how do they spend this day? Ah! (if yet alive) perhaps with sorrowing hearts and weighed down with the many troubles and trials that I know are resting upon them while I am so far away! And how could I or why should I join in with [?] and glee that is going on round me! O! no! no! when I see many that are cheerful and glad! Yet I know others are sad and these scenes only make me more melancholy! But the hours most pleasant and sacred to me is in the evening or morning when the glee and confusion of the day is lulled down to an almost profound silence! Then my mind flows forth to that home with the endearing thought that there my name is mingled with the name of our dear Redeemer in solemn prayer to God for my protection. May those prayers be answered! And may God speed the day when we will again be permitted to see each other and to mingle our voices together in praising His holy name! Dear Samantha, let us live faithful and let our prayers daily ascend to God for his protecting care over us and that if it should be His will that we shall meet no more on earth we may meet in heaven above when sorrow can never come.

I will now tell you that I am still well and have some more hopes of going back towards home again. My health is better now than it has been for some time. For the last few days I have been gaining fast. When we first came here

I had no appetite and was debilitated some but I bought a couple of bottles of good wine and have been using it three times a day and it has helped me a great deal. I have a good appetite now and feel well and hearty.

The weather is very warm here but does not affect me as much here as it did in Nashville. Samantha, I have not eat but fewhardtack since we drawed our pay. We have bought light bread and onions and potatoes and some butter but we cant get butter here. The rations we draw are awful poor. The sowbelly is most all spoiled and sour and all we draw is tack and pork, coffee and sugar and as long as I can get any thing fit to eat I shant eat their tack and sowbelly. If I had known that we would have been brought down here I would have kept five or ten dollars more but I can get it here as well as not if I need it. Farver¹ did not send his [money] home and if I need any I will get it and write to you but maybe I can get along with what I have.

We cant tell yet where we are a going from here nor how long we will have to stay here yet but most all think we will go up the river again soon. We cant tell certain but I wish they would take us some place where we could get good water. The water here is awful. It is almost impossible to drink it without ice and ice is so dear we cant afford to buy much.

There is talk here now that there is an order to muster out all the one year men but it may not be so. Samantha, some folks write from up there that the weevil is eating all the late wheat. When you get this write and tell me how ours is and how you got it cut, if you got it done at all. Well, Dear Samantha, I have wrote enough for this time so I will stop. From your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

Camp Jackson, New Orleans
6 July 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few more lines to you. I wrote day before yesterday on the Fourth and have wrote about every other day since we have been here. We have been here

1 Isaac Farver.

eleven days and this is the fifth letter I have wrote. When I wrote day before yesterday I told you I was well and I did feel the healthyest I had for months but yesterday morning I took down with the cholera-morbis and was dreadful sick all day with the diarrhea and cramping pains in my stomach and bowels and had no place to ly, only in our tent on the ground and the sun shone so hot it was a miserable day for me. But I am very thankful and happy to tell you that I feel quite well again today [although] I feel weak and am so nerveless that I cant write very well. But I have no pain at all and will be hearty again in a few days. The rest of the boys from there are all well. Samantha, when you get this and write again I wish you would put about a dozen of them pills in a letter and send them to me. I have thought of telling you for a long time but still forgot it.

Samantha, the Third Division of the Corps left yesterday. They went down the river. It is a going to Texas somewhere near Galveston on the Rio Grande River and we may soon follow. The news is now that this division will stay here a while yet as we may not go any farther at all [but] we may go in a few days. I think we will not go for a week or ten days yet anyhow and by that time there may be an order to send some more of us home. I hope so anyhow but it wont be very long now till they will have to send us home anyhow for it is only ninety days or three months til our time is out. One day will pass after another and so they will soon all wear away! I dont want to pass many such days as I did yesterday or I would be apt to wear away first but I feel quite well now. I eat a midling hearty dinner today. I wish I had a squirrel or young chicken or something good to eat but when I get home I will get something good to eat I know and we will soon forget all these troubles. There are a great many peddlers in camp every day with bread and pies and cakes and melons and cucumbers but they sell every thing very dear so we cant buy much and the most of their things are not wholsum so I dont buy much, only light bread or onions or potatoes, something of that kind. I have been careful not to eat any green trash or any thing that would make one sick anyhow. This is not a healthy place at all and the water is miserable stuff. But Samantha, I will stop writing for this evening and I will write some more in the morning.

Josiah

Friday morning, July 7

Dear Samantha,

I will write some more this morning and send out this letter as soon as the mail goes out. I am still better today and am able for duty and feel quite well and have a good appetite. I guess taking such a cleaning out is a going to do me good.

Samantha, we dont know any more about when or where we will move than we did yesterday. We heard last night that there is some more men to be mustered out of this army but we dont know whether it will take this regiment or not. I think this division will remain here perhaps ten days longer and if so we may have different orders by that time.

Well, Samantha, I will now tell you what I had for breakfast. I had some light bread and coffee and smashed potatoes and onions. There was some women brought in some cooked potatoes and I bought a dish for a quarter, about what would make a good meal for one man and I bought some fresh fish that I am going to have for dinner, so you see I will live midling well today anyhow. I had some ripe peaches yesterday. When you write again tell me if there is any fruit up there this year and whether apples are a going to be plenty. There is no apples trees in this country but there is plenty of oranges and figs and peaches and plums. I have had ripe figs and peaches and plums and there is the nicest flower trees here imaginable - some large trees with pink flowers all over them, the prettiest flowers I ever saw. I had a bunch here yesterday. I wish you could have seen it. There is trees with all kinds of flowers and all kinds of shubbery but this is a low flat country and when the river is high, it is three or four feet above the level of the land. They have a strong levy along the river which keeps it from overflowing the country and there is plenty of alligators and crocodiles down here too!

But Samantha, I have wrote enough for this time, so I will close by asking you to be cheerful and happy as possible and remember and pray for me, your loving and affectionate husband

Josiah
To Samantha Kimes

I hope and trust this may find you all well and that I may

soon return to that home again, that I might be one of the number to increase and enjoy its pleasures.

Camp near New Orleans, Louisiana
Sunday morning, July 9, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will again write a few lines this morning to tell you that I am still reasonably well and I hope this may find you all well and hearty. Samantha, a part of this division left camp last evening and are loading on the boats now and I think now that we will go tomorrow. We will have another long trip of eight or nine hundred miles to make and then we will be about as far from home as they can take us unless they take us to California or out of the United States! The talk is and as near as we can find out we are a going across the Gulf and up the Rio Grande River or in that section of country near the line between Texas and Mexico. Samantha, I have wrote so often since we have been here that I have not much news to write but we may leave in the morning and perhaps I would have another chance to write while here but if we do not go for a few days I will write again.

Samantha, I got five dollars of Isaac Farver (that used to be shoemaker in Spencerville) and when you get this letter if you have it to spare, pay it to his wife and get a few lines to show that it is paid. Samantha, maybe I am robbing you of money that you need but we can not get along here without money very well for we have to buy ice and our rations are so poor that we have to buy some things to eat and had to pay for wood and sticks for to put up tents and if a man would live half decent it would cost more than his wages every day but I hope this way of living will soon end and if you can get along for a few months more and if the Lord spares our lives I think this way of living will be over and we will see each other again and if we have our health we can get along and live happy again. But we will trust in the Lord for the future and ask his protecting care to rest on us and hope on to the end. Samantha, I have thought a great deal about our harvest and wondered how you will get it taken care of at all.

Samantha, you wanted me to send you a name for the babe but Samantha, I cant for I dont think of any and you

must try and have it named by the time I get home. Name it any name you wish or think is pretty and it will suit me. O how I wish I could be there now to see you all and see that dear little babe but it may be I never will see it but I will hope on ! But sometimes my hopes grow very faint and low when I think of the many miles, the many dangers yet to undergo and were I to trust in my own weakness I would have no hopes at all of ever reaching home again! But I trust in the strong and protecting hand of God that has thus far sustained me in every trying hour and at times my faith is increased and my hopes seem to grow brighter and brighter and I almost forget the many troubles, trials and sorrows we have to pass through, for God has promised to sustain all that trust in him and to him that asketh he will withhold no good thing.

Samantha, I have wrote about all I can for this time but if spared I will write again before long. Perhaps I may write a few lines more in this today before sending it out. From your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

Monday morning, July 10

Dear Samantha,

As my letter did not go out yesterday, I will write some more this morning. I am still well and hope you are all well, too. But the last letter I got was wrote 18 June which is 22 days since, and I am anxious to get another letter from home. I dont think we will leave here today yet but if we have to go I dont care how soon we start for we cant get in a much worse place. Samantha, I forgot to tell you yesterday that we had all got musketo bars. They are very bad here and had eat my hands and feet most up or so they swelled very bad but we have them fixed now so they cant get to us at night. Our bars are fixed like or in the shape of a box two feet high and two feet wide and six feet long. We stretch them up and let the bottom hang on the ground and it makes a nice cool place to sleep in.

Well, Samantha, I can not write any more now but remember and pray for your unworthy husband

Josiah Kimes

Co C 35th Ind Vol Inf
Camp Jackson on Concert Plantation
7 miles below Orleans
July 13, 1865

Dear Samantha,

When I last wrote to you on the 8th inst, I did not expect to be here this long but we are still here and cant tell how long we will remain here yet. But there is no more signs of leaving now than there was a week ago. I will commence writing this evening but it may be a day or two before I finish or send it off and perhaps I may get a letter tomorrow or have some more news to write.

Samantha, I am still well and hearty and I do hope you are all well, too. I do wish I could be at home now to see you all and to go to harvesting instead of being hounded around here doing the government no good nor any body else. I know how much I am needed at home to work instead of running around here and not getting half paid for I know if I was at home and could stand it to work I could earn twice as much and be at home too. I know it will cost a great deal to get the wheat cut and taken care of but I expect it is ripe before this time and maybe cut if you could get anybody to cut it. O I wish I knowed how you do get along. It does not seem a bit like harvest time down here for there is no wheat to cut. They raise nothing but sugar cane and corn and I dont think it is much warmer here now that it is up there. Today it is cool and there is a cool breeze almost every day. I have wore my blouse all day today. I wear drawers and wollen pants and wollen shirts and socks and some days vest and blouse but some days it makes a man haul off and fan for breath.

Samantha, we have a plenty of ripe figs here now. There is hundreds of bushels on this plantation and the boys get all they want. They are most too sweet for me. If it was not so far by several thousand miles, I would slip out through the guard lines and bring you some this evening but I dont think I could walk so far tonight. But I hope the day is not far off when I will not be far from home and when I can see you all again if our lives are spared. But I will stop for this evening. Goodbye.

Samantha
Josiah

[sketch of eagle]

Camp Jackson
Louisana
Josiah
July 13, 1865

May this be quickly borne
To the dear ones at home
May glad tidings ever reach them
Their longing hearts to cheer
And may the hour quickly hasten
When I too will be there

July 14, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines now this morning. I thought I would wait til after the mail came in and perhaps I might get a letter but there was none for me, so I will finish this letter and send it out in the morning. The last letter I got was dated June 18th which is almost a month ago and I feel anxious to hear from home again and hear whether our money got home and that likeness and our coats but the best of all to hear if you are all well yet. Samantha, I am still well except I have a cold but I have been getting some better of it today and I feel better in every other respect than I have for months.

I wish I knew whether you are all well yet and how you get along and if you have got the wheat cut but there is no use of thinking or wondering anything about it, for it is of no use for it will take a letter some two or three weeks to come down here, so it is always so long before I can hear from you. But we have only about twelve weeks until our time is out and it may be we will still get home before that. I dont make any calculation on it any more but our time will soon slip around. Samantha, we dont know yet how soon we will leave here but we expected to have gone before this but we are still here yet and we may stay some time yet and we may go tomorrow. We can tell nothing about it but Samantha, I would rather go on than lay here long and if they aint a going to let us go home, the sooner they send us on the better for we cant get in a much worse place. Well, Samantha, try and be cheerful and get along as well as possible a few months longer and if our lives are

spared, we will see each other again and then we will forget all these troubles and sorrows and be happy again. Dear Samantha, live faithful and pray for me your affectionate husband

*Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes*

On 15 July 1865 the men and officers of the 35th Indiana boarded the U.S.S. Everman, carrying with them ten days' rations. Their destination was Indianola, Texas.

Chapter 7

Across the Gulf and into Camp at Victoria, Texas

15 July - 30 September 1865 (Camp Stanley)

The voyage from New Orleans to Indianola and then to Lavacca, Texas took a week (15-22 July 1865) and although company commanders were under orders to make the men "as comfortable as circumstances allow," it would appear from Josiah's letters that there were more miseries than comforts for the men during this particular trip. On 23 July, after arrival on Texas soil, Lieutenant Colonel Gallagher and four companies of the regiment went on ahead to find a camping place "on the Little Chocolate River where sweet water and fuel can be had," with orders to await the arrival there of the rest of the command. The remainder of the regiment left Port Lavacca early in the morning on 24 July (Reveille at 1 a.m., assembly at 2 a.m., canteens well filled). Their destination was Green Lake, a march of 14 miles.

The 35th remained in camp at Green Lake for about two weeks, during which time Colonel Tassin issued various orders clearly designed to keep the troops in line. Josiah's communiques continued to reflect his thoughtful prayers and prayerful thoughts of home and he had little to say about his daily routine, with its numerous roll calls and parades, other than his assignment to guard duty. He could have said that at this time his day started at 4 a.m. when Reveille was sounded, followed by roll call. One half hour after Reveille there was company drill until Recall was sounded. If he was on guard duty, the first call for guard mounting came at 6:45 a.m. when the "Details for Picket" were required to "turn out in regiment quarters," followed by a second call when they were to set off and "proceed direct" to their assigned posts. Company inspection took place at 9 a.m., dinner was at 12 noon and at sundown the call for Retreat was sounded, at which time Dress Parade was held in each regiment. At 8:30 p.m. Tattoo was sounded and the men returned to their quarters, followed by Taps at 8:45. No one was excused from any of the specified duties except as authorized by a commissioned officer or

regimental doctor, who were exhorted not to be lenient in this respect.

Josiah's next letters were written from Green Lake, Texas.

Green Lake, Texas
July 24 AD 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines to you to let you know where I am now and that I am still well. It has been ten or eleven days since I wrote you and I know it will seem like a long time to you, for I used to write every three or four days but it was impossible for me to write since we left New Orleans and I dont know as it will do any good to write now for I dont know when the mail will go out. It may not for a week but I will write some and have it ready when it does.

Samantha, we left New Orleans on the 15th and we was on the boat a week (lacking but a few hours). We came on a steam ship. We was one day going from Orleans to the mouth of the river and then we was three days on the Gulf that we never got within sight of land and O! how dreary and lonesome it seemed for three long days to see nothing but wave after wave and some of them like mountains rolled and splashed their white foam across our little ship. In the three days we did not so much as get sight of any ship or vessel but once in a while we could see a shark or some other big fish come up and look at us as though they wanted to see if there was any prey for them. But we finally reached the coast of Texas and ran along the coast til we reached Matagorda Bay and ran up the bay about 35 miles to Indianola and stopped there almost a day. Then we ran up 12 miles farther and landed at a small town called Lavacca and O! how glad we was to get on shore again but to our surprise we could scarcely stand up or walk when we did get ashore! For we had got so used to the rolling and tossing of the ship that when we got on shore we thought the ground was rolling to and fro and we have not got entirely over it yet.

It was an awful sight on the ship the first night after we got on the salt water for the sea was rough and the men most all got sea sick and they were crowded in so thick they could scarcely get around. So they vomited all over the floor in the hull and it was all shut up but for two small holes, so that it was very hot in there and smelled worse

than a hogpen. I stayed down one night after we got on the Gulf and was midling sick, too, but after that I shifted my quarters up on deck and slept there at night, too. The waves would splash over once in a while and wet me but I would rather stand that than go down. Some of the boys were very sick all the way across. I felt midling well after the first night but I was giddy and lightheaded for the boat rolled and tossed so that a man could not stand up unless holding to something and barrels and boxes would tumble from one side to the other. But we all got over alive and night before last we started from Lavacca and marched West about 20 miles to where we are now at Green Lake.

We got here yesterday about noon. There is quite a lake here. It is all one prairie from here to the Bay. The way we came we found water about six miles this side of Lavacca but it was poor stuff. Some of the troops had to march from Indianola here, a distance of 25 miles straight across without a bit of water and a great many of the men give out and fainted by the way without a bit of water. They would have to ly down in the hot sun without a bit of shade for we seen but two houses and no timber at all but here we found a plenty of water and there was some wagons loaded with water and sent back after the men that give out. The report is that a good many died along the road but I dont know how many. We passed some that would offer five dollars and some would offer every thing they had for a drink of water but we had none so we could not give them any and what we have here is very warm, such as you would not taste at home. But we have got used to it and I think it is healthier here than at New Orleans. There is considerable of timber around the lake but away from it we can see nothing but prairie covered with thousands and thousands of cattle and ponies and I dont know where the owners are. Some are branded and some not and as wild as though they never saw a man. There is a plenty of wolves and some deer and bear and crockadiles and all kinds of animals here.

Wednesday morning, July 26, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write some more this morning. I wrote some two days ago but have had no chance to send it out so I will

write some more but I dont know yet when the mail will go out or when we will get any (but I hope soon). I am still well and hearty and the boys from there are all well except Judson Miller. He was sick and left back at Lavacca and we have not heard from him since.

Samantha, we dont know how long we will stay here but I think not longer than until the wagon train catches up which may take several weeks yet. We are a going from here to San Antonio, which is about one hundred and twenty miles from here. It will be quite a long march to make in this hot weather but we will march at night and rest in the day and people say it is a good country and plenty of water and so we will get along well enough. There is water along the way from here through to San Antonio and if we ever march again, I will lighten my knapsack and not carry such a big load as I have done heretofore. I hate to have to throw away my clothes but I shall.

Daniel and me went down to the outlet of the lake yesterday after some grapes. It is about four miles from here and we got as many as we could carry and the very nicest kind. They are about such as they raise in the gardens up North and there is hundreds of bushels of them there. There is quite a stream runs out of the lake and timber on each side loaded with grapes. And we seen a plenty of fishes as large as both of us and alligators and crockadiles from eight to sixteen feet long. We shot some squirrels so we had a nice dish of squirrels and some grapes for supper and breakfast along with our hardtack and sowbelly. But enough of this.

Dear Samantha, I wished I just knew how you are a getting along at home now. It has been a long time since I have got a letter. The last one was dated June 18th and this is the 26th and I dont know whether my letters go home or not. I wrote every three or four days while we were at Orleans but I cant write as often now and dont expect to get very many letters now for the mail wont go out nor come only once in a while. But there is one thing cheers me more every day and that is that our time will soon be out, for we have a little over two months longer to stay if they keep us our time out. The days are passing one by one and the sixth of October will soon come but if they keep us here til our time is out, it will take over half a month to get home from here. It may be they will start us soon but if our lives are spared a few months longer, we

shall see each other there again. We know not what is in the future but O! how I would like to see you all again.

Dear Samantha, try and be cheerful and live happy and comfortable as possible and look to God for grace to sustain in every trying hour and if it should be our lot that I should not see you again nor them dear little children, still trust in the Lord and try and teach them dear little ones to be good and to love the Savior and become followers of our dear Redeemer that they may be useful while they live and that we may all meet again in Heaven where partings shall be no more and where sorrows can never come. But Samantha, I have strong faith to believe that it is God's will that I may get home again for I know that I am needed to support and take care of my family. Had it not been for the goodness and mercy of God and his protecting care I would not be alive today but he has spared me this far and I will trust in him and be cheerful and hope on to the end. Dear Samantha, try and be cheerful and happy and remember and pray for me, your faithful and affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

Green Lake, Texas
August 3, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines to you this morning, hoping they will find you all well and comfortable as possible. I am truly glad and happy to tell you that I am still reasonably well and I am very thankful to God that he has thus far protected and sustained me through the many hardships and trials and that I am yet what I am! Although we are deprived of the many blessings and comforts of life, yet I am happy because the Savior is the best of friends, is ever near and I have his word to read and am entirely resigned to do his will! Dear Samantha, you wrote in your last letter that you was afraid I would get homesick. Dear Samantha, although I think a great deal of my home and family and would like so well to see you, yet you need not be afraid of my getting homesick for the Savior is ever near to comfort and cheer me along this rugged way and though I reach my home or fall by the way, I will ever trust in Him and serve Him to the end and thus be ever happy.

Samantha, I received three letters from you day before yesterday but I have been on guard since and could not answer them sooner. I was very glad to hear from home again but it has been a long time since they was wrote. The latest was dated July 10th, which is almost a month since. I was happy to hear that you was still well and I hope I may soon return home and find you all alive and well.

The boys here are all well but Jacob Yarnell and Judson Miller. He was left back at Lavacca and I have not heard from him since and Yarnell has not been well since we left Nashville or the forepart of June. He is still around and with the Company but he has been running down all the time and is very poor and has not been able to duty for a long time. He says he has not much pain in any way but has a diarrhea nearly all the time and of late I have been fearful unless he got better or we get to go home soon, his remains will be left in Texas. But he may get well again and some of the rest that are yet well be left in the plains of Texas. I dont think he writes home that he is sick and you had better not say anything so his folks get to hear of it, for he may get well again and they will only trouble about it and it will do no good. But Samantha, whenever I was sick I wrote to you and told you about it and I hope I may have good health the rest of my time, for we have only about two months more to serve and that will soon go round.

Samantha, try and be cheerful and happy. Trust in the Lord and try and be contented as possible and do not trouble so much about me for it does no good. I know you cant help it but the Lord is good and if it is His will I will get home again to cheer and try to support you again. Samantha, you wanted me to write to you where you should put the wheat. You must do as you think best and if you get the wheat stacked good where it is safe, you had better not have it threshed til midling late unless you need it for bread. It might be that I will get home in time to take care of it but I dont trouble myself about [it] now for if I get home we will get along somehow.

Samantha, I have not much news to write now, so I will stop for this time by asking you to remember me and live faithful and try and be cheerful and happy. From your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

Camp at Green Lake, Texas
Friday morning, August 4, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I wrote a few lines yesterday but the mail did not go out so I will write some more this morning. I am still well as usual and Jacob Yarnell is a good deal better. I think he looks a great deal better this morning and he may soon get well again. I do hope he will and you had better not say anything about it for he dont want his wife to trouble herself about it and I know she will if she hears that he is sick. We bought some dried peaches and some tea and he has eaten midling hearty and seems to feel better and is gaining strength. We can not get any light bread here and our tack are very poor but we can get a little flour once in a while, so we pound them up and mix a little with them and make pancakes of them and we will get along somehow.

I think we will leave here in a few days and go to Victoria, which is about 25 miles from here, and go into camp and stay there the rest of our time out. They say there is good water there and I hope we may find good water again for we have seen no water fit to drink since we left Nashville. The weather is very hot here and at noon the sun is almost straight above us and I expect that when we get to come home again it will seem quite cold up there.

This Corps is a going to be sent to different places. The Second Division will stay here and the First will go to Victoria and the Third will be sent to San Antonio, about one hundred and twenty miles from here. Samantha, you wrote in your letter that there was an order to muster out all men who's time is out by the first of January and we heard so, too, while we was at Orleans but I dont think the officers of this Corps care much about such orders and I expect we will have to stay till our time is out. They are mustering out all other corps and I dont see why this is kept in the field but our time will soon be out and so I dont care much about it. We have only two months more to stay and that will soon pass by.

The rest of the boys are well now. James Abel and Henry Horner had the chills when we first came here but they are well now. We are midling lean and sunburned so you would scarcely know us.

Samantha, this is very poor writing but I hope you can read it. The mail [only] goes out once in a while so I cant write so often any more. But Samantha, keep cheerful and hope on and we may soon get home again. I know two months seem quite long in the army but when we get home it will pass off very quickly. I must stop writing for this time. From your true and faithful husband

*Josiah Kimes
To Samantha*

The 35th Indiana left Green Lake early in the morning of 8 August 1865, on a march "made as easy as practicable" over a period of two days. The regiment bivouacked the first night, on orders, "at or near the West side of Mrs. Rose's pasture" and on the second day moved on to Victoria. The men carried with them "all the rations in their possession except that over three days' rations of hard bread," the balance of the hard bread being taken to the regimental headquarters.

Upon arrival at Victoria, a number of orders were issued which were designed to establish the routine at the new encampment, define access to its premises by outsiders, and enforce certain health precautions and standards of decorum. Among the latter, one of the most interesting specified when and under what circumstances the men were to be allowed to bathe in the Guadeloupe River, an order which resulted at least in part from the fact that one of the ranking officers found the sight of a thousand men cavorting in the river "unpleasant." The order in question, dated 10 August 1865, read as follows: "Hereafter no bathing will be allowed in the Guadeloupe River until after sunset each day. Call will be sounded and bathing will be allowed for one half hour, when recall is to be sounded and the men will retire from the water." The order then added, "No man is to be permitted to cross the river for any purpose whatever except for tent poles and wood and then a detail must be made by the Regiment Commander and a commissioned officer in charge who will be held responsible for the men while they are across the river."

The camp, which was located about six miles from Victoria, was called Camp Stanley. The Morning Report of the 35th Indiana for 15 August 1865 indicated that Jacob Yarnell had been sent to Division Hospital and on 20 August Josiah wrote his first letter from the new camp. Under orders signed by General Stanley on 21 August, troops of the 4th Army Corps, which was discontinued as an organization, were redesignated the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions of Troops of the Central District of Texas. As of the same date the published strength, "present and absent," of the 35th Indiana was 457 men.

Camp 6 miles from Victoria, Texas
August 20, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines to you in answer to the letters I received dated July 21st, 23rd and 27th. I was very glad and happy to get letters from home of so late a date and to hear that you was all well. You wrote in the last that John¹ was there and you was a going to town with him. I am glad he has got home and I hope he will stay with you till I get home, if I am spared so long. He will be some company and help to you.

I am still well excepting I have had the diarhea for the last few days. I had felt the best and healthyest for the last ten days that I have since I have been in the army but now since I have the diarhea I do not feel quite so well but I think I will get over it in a day or two for I had it often and soon get over it! You must not think I am sick for I can eat hearty. Yesterday I bought two loaves of light bread and a half pound of butter and I have eat hearty.

I hope this letter may find you all well and hearty and in good spirits, for the time is drawing near when (if we live) I shall see you all again. We have only a month and a half to serve til our time is out. It will be but a few weeks until we will be on our way home again. It is about 2600 miles from here home and it will take quite a while to get home after we get started. If they should keep us here until our time is out before they muster us out, it will be some time longer or quite a while yet until we will get home but I dont think from the appearance of things that they will keep us but a few weeks longer until they will start us toward home. Tell Cora and Ada Pa is coming home to see them again and to help to take care of them and that they must be good girls til Pa comes and help Ma all they can and take good care of the baby and have a name for it so Pa will know what to call it when he comes home.

Samantha, I am glad to hear that our wheat was midling good and was taken care of if it did cost a big price and if you get it thashed before I get home have the screanings taken care of for it will help to fatten the hogs [as] we will have no corn. It might be you could get room in Koch's or Father's barn to put the wheat. If Dave Andress'

1 Probably John Wesley Shirts, Samantha's brother.

barn is not fixed, it is not a very good place but you must do the best you can till I get home.

Well, Samantha, I will still write some more although I dont hardly know what more to write. I know you will be glad to read all I can write if it is wrote very poor. There is so much confusion here now. The soldiers are coming in and it is awful to hear them talk about this move. If they knew who was the cause of it and had him here, they would tear him to pieces in a minute but we may as well be contented and take it patiently and for my part I shall be as contented as possible and make the best of it I can. Dear Samantha, you must try and get along as well as you can and dont fret nor worry any more than you can help but be patient and live in hopes that we may see each other again. I am so afraid you will trouble yourself so much that you will get down sick again. But Samantha, dont trouble yourself but try and be cheerful and pass the time off as fast as possible. This is the way I do. I take every thing patiently and make the best of it I can. And Samantha, try and teach them little children to be good children. Tell Cora if she learns her letters well, so she knows them all when Pa comes home, he will buy her some nice books and a nice dress, and Ada, too. She is big enough to learn her letters. If Pa lives to get home and you all live, he will get you all some nice things but Pa is so far away that if I was to start home now it would take over two weeks to get home. We heard this morning that there is an order issued to muster out all the soldiers who's time is out before the first of January but I dont know whether it is true or not. I hope it is.

Samantha, I am getting tired of writing, for I have no chance to write, only to set on the ground and write on my knee. Yet I love to write to you and I will write soon again. But I have wrote a long letter now and must stop for this time by asking you to remember and pray for your unworthy husband

Josiah Kimes

Camp on the Guadeloupe River
near Victoria, Texas
August 24, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will write a few lines to you today in answer to a

letter I received yesterday dated August 1st. I am indeed happy and glad still to get letters from home and to hear that you are still alive and reasonably well and I do hope this may find you still the same.

I wrote to you four days ago and told you that I had the diarrhea. I am troubled some with it yet but not so bad as I have been for the last week! The pills you sent in your letter came through safe and I was glad to get them. I have taken one dose of them and I am very glad you sent them. It is cloudy here today and raining slowly and the air is cool and pleasant. I hope it will not be so hot any more while we stay here, which I think will not be very long for the news is now that this regiment and the 9th Indiana are a going to start home soon. We have it from men that just came from Orleans and they say the Agt General there told them that it was no use to come through to the regiment for it would be on its way home inside of a month and that is the talk here. But there has been so many false stories and reports that I am not a very strong believer in them. They may all be true but I am not caring very much for my time is so near out that I will soon get to go home anyway if I am spared so long.

Samantha, I have had a plenty to eat for the last few days and last evening I made some potato soup and we bought a pound of tea and a few dried apples. If we had plenty of greenbacks we could get a plenty to eat but it would take about three months wages to board us one, so you see it would not be a very money making business. But our time is so near out which seems quite encouraging and we will try and get along as well as possible and hope that we may soon reach our homes again to enjoy the society of our dear families and friends.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter that your wheat was hauled and stacked. I am glad you have got it done and I wish I could be at home to help you to thrash and take care of it. I dont know yet how soon we will get home but it wont be very long til I will be at home to help you to take care of the children and things, for I know you have more than you can do. Tell Cora and Ada and Emma that they must be good girls and help Ma til Pa comes. Samantha, we must try and make some apple butter this faul if apples are plenty and cheap and get some for winter, for if I live to get home I dont intend to work much this winter but just sit in the house and talk and fat up and

eat apples, that is if I can get there. But I must stop writing for this time, so be cheerful and remember me your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha

Camp near Victoria, Texas
August 30, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines to you this morning and I am indeed happy to tell you that I am well. As the time passes by my hopes and prospects are growing brighter and brighter and I feel quite encouraged to think that I have but a little over a month longer to stay away from home. If we get justice done we will be near home by that time but we cant tell yet whether we will have to stay here til our time is out or whether we will be mustered out in time to our own state but let it be as it may. The time will soon come round now and if our lives are spared, it will not be very long any more til we will get home anyway.

I had had quite a seize of the diarhea for ten days past which pulled me down some but I am well of it now and have been for several days and feel well and hearty now. I was on guard yesterday. We come on guard every third day but standing guard will soon play out with us and how glad I will be when we get home and can ly down and sleep at night and not have to be up half the night. But the weather is pleasant here now. It rained for four or five days and since it has not been so hot. Our hardtack has played out for the last week. We have not seen any. It got to be so wormy that I guess the worms have finally eaten it all up! And they had had to issue flour to us but we have no way to bake it, only to mix it up with water and bake it in a frying pan and you can imagine how good it is. But we get a plenty of beef and pork so we get along midling well! I expect there is a plenty of apples at home now or in that country and I hope there will be a good crop of potatoes so we can get some for winter.

Samantha, keep up good spirits and try and do the best you can and hope on and if our lives are spared, we will soon see each other again. Take good care of yourself and do not work too much so you will get sick, for when

I get home or if I am spared to get home, I want to find you all alive and well. The boys here are all well as when I wrote last. Daniel¹ is well and Jim¹ is well and Byron¹ and Harmer¹ are well and we have not heard anything from Judson¹ yet and do not know what has become of him.

I do not expect that we will move out of this camp until we will start towards home and I hope not, for we have our camp fixed so it is quite pleasant now. We have put up good bunks and cut brush and made shade over our tents and pulled the weeds out of the camp grounds and have got it fixed up quite nice. I hope we will stay here until we start for home, which should not be long!

Well, Samantha, I have wrote all I can for this time, so good bye and remember your unworthy husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Victoria, Texas
September 5, 1865

Dear Wife,

I will write a few lines to you this morning to tell you that we are yet alive and here in Texas and I am still reasonably well and I hope and trust this may find you all well and hearty and in good spirits. We are yet lying here in camp and can not tell how long we will have to stay here yet but I dont expect to stay here a great while longer for our time will be out in thirty days and that will not be very long. We should be started home in a few days in order to reach our own state by the time our term of service expires but whether we will be started home before our time is out we can not tell yet. We will know in about thirty days.

Samantha, I received two letters from you since I wrote last. One was an old letter wrote in June and the other the sixth of August. I am always glad and happy to get letters from home but I think by the time this reaches you (if it ever does) you had better not write any more for if we live so long we certainly will be on our way home. I hope so anyhow!

¹ Reference is made to Daniel Kimes, James Brownlee, Byron Woodcox and Judson Miller. "Harmer" may be Isaac Farver or Henry Harmer.

Samantha, you wrote in your letter that you would like to know if I had good boots or shoes to wear or whether I had to go barefoot. We get plenty of clothing. We can draw every month and you need not trouble any about that for we have a plenty and government owes me yet thirty or forty dollars for clothing that I have not drawed and I do not want to draw them now for I do not want to carry them when we have to march. And when we start for home we will have to march from here to the Gulf, a distance of fifty or sixty miles straight across!

Samantha, I will try and write a few lines every week until we do get started but I hope that will not be many! There is considerable ague and chills among the boys here now. I had a chill the first day of this month but took a dose of them pills you sent me and some quinine and have not had any since [though] I have felt quite agueish ever since. It will not be very long till I will get home to help you take care of things. Samantha, I dont think you had better sell any wheat this faul for we will not get any sowed and we will need it for bread another year if we live so long and if we sell now we may have to pay double as much for it if we have to buy again.

Samantha, if I dont get home in time, you must try and buy some potatoes and cabbage and apples for winter. If you can get any one to tend to it for you and if John is at home maybe he will stay with you and help you some. I expect to get home in time to put up winter apples and such things but if I dont you must do the best you can and wait patiently and be contented and happy as possible.

The boys are still all well as usual, about as they was when I wrote to you last. The weather is very hot down here and wearing a heavy hat in this hot weather is making my hair come out very fast and it is getting thin now but I hope it will not be long until I will be at home again. Samantha, remember me your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes

September 7, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I wrote a few lines day before yesterday but have had no chance to send it off yet, so I will write a few more lines this morning and I think it will go out today.

I was on picket yesterday and last night and when I came in there was two letters here for me dated August 15th and 16th. I was very glad to hear from you again and glad to hear that you had got your thrashing done for I know it is a great deal of trouble for you to get such things done. You wrote that you thought I would be disappointed when I heard how much wheat there was. I am not at all! For since I have heard how poor the wheat crop is there, I did not expect as much as there was! But you wrote that the baby and Emma was not very well. I do hope and trust they are well by this time and that it will not be long til I will get to see them.

Samantha, I am still well as common and I do hope and trust this may find you all well and hearty. The boys that are here with the regt are all well but there are some that are not here. Judson was left back and Farver was sent back to Indianola on duty and Byron is at Division Headquarters. Samantha, you wrote that I should try and not get homesick, of which you need not be fearful for there are none of the boys here but what have mind and sence enough to keep from getting homesick although if there was a place in the world to make a man homesick this is one. Although we think a great deal of our homes, yet I dont think there is any danger of us getting homesick. If we can keep from getting sick otherwise is all we ask. But dear Samantha, I feel sleepy and tired this morning and can not write very well, so I will quit for this time. From your humble husband

Josiah Kimes

Samantha, I will write a few words more about Jacob Yarnell. Poor Jacob. He is yet alive and this is all. I think in twenty four hours from now we can not say that much, for his hours in this troublesome world are almost numbered. He came here sick as I wrote before and we kept him here a few days and done all we could for him but he kept getting worse and then I helped to carry him to the hospital only about a quarter of a mile from here where he has remained since. He has had good care taken of him and for a few days we was in good hopes of his recovering but lately he has been growing worse and is very low now, just alive and that is all. Byron has been there taking care of him but still he had gone down and his poor family will never see him again for I think when we

write again we will have to send the sad news that his remains are lying in the clay of Texas so far from home. Samantha, I wrote to you before and told you not to say any thing but Byron said this morning we might as well write all about it for now his family would soon have to know it anyway. But good bye for this time

Josiah

On 7 September 1865 the mustering out order which Josiah had been waiting for was issued by Headquarters, District of Texas, at Victoria. It directed that the 35th Indiana Regiment, among others, be mustered out of service at once. The Commissary of Musters was required to comply with certain procedures before the order could be given for the actual mustering out but after these had been completed, the soldiers could finally be put "en route for their rendezvous for final payment and discharge." When Josiah wrote to Samantha on the 11th of September, he gave her the news.

Camp near Victoria, Texas
September 11, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a very few lines to tell you this morning I am still well as common and hope this may find you all well and hearty. I received another letter from you dated August 21st. You wrote that Emma was not well but I hope she is well by this time. You also wrote that you had your wheat thrashed and taken care of and I am very glad you have, for I know it is a great deal of trouble to you to tend to such things. But dear Samantha, I hope I will soon get home again to help you take care of things. There is orders here now to muster this regt and the 8th Indiana and also the 51st Ohio out of this Division and we will probably get started for home in ten or fifteen days. But it will take quite a while to get home after we do get started for we will have a long way to go and will have to stop at Orleans and at Indianapolis some time. But if my life is spared it will not be very long now till I will be at home again so you must cheer up and try and be contented and hope on.

I suppose you have heard the sad news that Jacob Yarnell is dead. He died on the 7th of September in the

hospital only about a half mile from here. I was up to see him at noon and at fifteen minutes after two o'clock he died and was buried at four! Poor man, he suffered his year almost out and died at last so far from home and his remains are left here in Texas so far from his family.

The rest of the boys are all well as usual. I heard from Judson. He is yet at Lavacca where he is waiting on the sick in the hospital there. Samantha, we get a plenty of rations now. We draw a plenty of meat and we have been drawing flour and meal and we have bought some soda so we can bake it midling well. I made some fried cakes the other day and the boys thought they was as good as they ever eat, and we get a few potatoes and I have made potato soup a number of times. Since we have flour and it eats well enough and we bought some tea, you can see we have enough to eat now.

Samantha, I will not write any more this time. I have a great many things to tell you but I dont think best to write. So good bye for this time. Dear Samantha, try to live right and remember and pray for me, your affectionate husband

Josiah Kimes
To Samantha Kimes

Byron Woodcox did what he could to care for Jacob Yarnell during the last few weeks before he died. They were in fact brothers-in-law, as Yarnell's wife Cordelia was Byron Woodcox' sister. Much later, after the war, Byron Woodcox and Uriah Blue, another soldier of Company C of the 35th Indiana, filed an affidavit regarding Yarnell's military service and death in Texas to assist Yarnell's widow to obtain a widow's pension. Their words beyond much doubt provide the only extant description of that particular soldier's last days, death and burial. They stated that Yarnell died from "a disease called chronic diarrhea" which was caused by exposure and overdoing. He became disabled for duty while stationed at Green Lake, Texas on or about the 1st day of August 1865 and on or about the 20th day of August was carried to the hospital at Camp Stanley, where he remained until his death. Byron Woodcox and Uriah Blue were with him when he died on 7 September 1865 and they helped to bury him.

Josiah Kimes wrote only three more letters to Samantha. All were written at Victoria, on the 17th, 20th and 24th of September. On the 20th his letter was merely a note added at the end of a letter which his

brother Daniel wrote to Samantha in answer to one from her and to reassure her, seemingly, as to Josiah's physical condition as he left on the long journey back to Indiana. On the same day Daniel Kimes also wrote to their sister Elizabeth and her husband, David Beam, again seemingly trying to prepare those at home for the condition of the returning soldiers.

Camp near Victoria, Texas
September 17, 1865

Dear Samantha,

I will try and write a few lines to you this morning while in this camp and it may be the last time till I get home. Our officers got orders yesterday to make out the muster rolls and they are to work at them now but it will take them some time to make out the papers for this regt. It will take eight or ten days at least to get ready to start but if the papers are all made out here, we will not have to stop so long at Indianapolis. It may take a long time to go home (if we are spared ever to get there). It will be after the middle of October before we will get home anyhow and I dont know how much longer. It will be a long and hard journey but I assure you we will go with a willing mind. We will have to march from here to the Gulf and a great many of the men are weak and marching will go hard.

I am still midling well so that I am able for duty or do duty at least but I am weak and have a pain in my legs and back all the time for the last month. I dont know what it is but I think it is caused from exposure and the hot climate and I am very glad that we are soon going to start North where it is a little cooler. I expect it will seem quite cold to us after being in so hot a climate but I believe I will feel better as soon as I get home where it is colder weather. I do hope you are all well yet and that if I am spared a few weeks longer I may find you all alive and well. Samantha, keep in good spirits. I expect by the time this reaches you I will be several thousand miles nearer home and it may be we will get home as soon as this letter if we have no bad luck on the way. But I will not write any more now and if we start as soon as we expect to I will not write again. So remember me your faithful husband

Josiah Kimes

Camp near Victoria, Texas
September 20, 1865

Dear Sister,

I received your letter about 15 minutes ago and you may well think how glad I was and how much good it does me to hear from those I love, from those that are Dear Friends to me and that yet live where I have spent so many happy hours and pleasant days. We are now deprived of all those blessings and can not see our dear friends now nor enjoy their society. Samantha, you cant imagine how well I would like to be there to see you once more and have a good play with your little children as I used to have when I would come there. That was all the place that I ever was that seemed to me like home. I hope the day may not be far distant when we shall again see our home and those that are Dear to us.

The mustering officer has again arrived and we expect from present news and circumstances to leave this place the last of this month or the first of next to start for home. Samantha, I am sorry to tell you that our health is very poor. Josiah has not been well for some time. He had very severe pains in his legs, arms and back but I think he will get home all right yet, for he has a good appetite and is well otherwise but poor and weak. But let not this cause you any trouble or sorrow for I have told you the worst of it so you need not be afraid of him.

As for the country, I dont like it no way and wish to get out of it as soon as possible. I hate the idea of crossing the Gulf at this time of the year but we trust all to a kind Providence who is able to take care of us and return us safe to our dear friends at home where we can get something good to eat and be free from Irish tryanny once more. O how happy we will be when we are free boys again but as I have no news to write I must close by hoping this may find you well and happy. Excuse mistakes.

Daniel Kimes
To Samantha

Dear Wife,

As Daniel has wrote, I will only write a few lines in this today. I received a letter today dated August 24th and

25th. I am indeed happy to hear from home but I am sorry that your health is poor. Yet we should be very thankful that we are yet as well as we are. Dear Samantha, I am not very well. I have a midling good appetite to eat and am in good spirits but I have suffered severely with a pain in my legs and back and arms and am getting poor and weak. I feel some better today and I think I will probably be well in a short time again. I think it is caused in the first place by having the chills and the hot climate and exposure. I hope we will soon get started North where the weather will be cooler but it may be ten days yet before we get started from here. I will write again before we leave this camp. Samantha, keep in good spirits and wait patiently a little longer and if my life is spared I will soon be home again.

Josiah Kimes

Camp near Victoria, Texas
September 20, 1865

Dear Sister and Brother,

I will try and write a few lines to you to let you know that I am a coming home before long if my life is spared. I received a letter from Samantha today and I am sorry to hear that your whole family was nearly or altogether sick and there is so much sickness that it will be hard for folks to get their fall work done. I have had no letter from home for quite a while. I dont know why except they are looking for us home. It may be that we will start in a few more weeks and maybe we wont. Our officers are so dilatory and negligent that it is hard to tell when we will get home but the orders are here to muster us out immediately. They are at work but slowly.

Elizabeth, I will now say that I am well but have a bad diarrhea and have had since I was at Nashville and I am getting very weak and poor and can hardly walk around any more. I dont see how I am to walk from here to the Bay but Josiah is not much better. Perhaps we may get home all safe. God is our helper and in him we trust for future aid. O Dear Sister, what a happy day it will be. We can all meet as we used to at Father's to eat and chat with each other and be happy. I hope it will not be long any more. I hope when this reaches you it will find you all well and happy and I trust soon to follow this letter. But good bye.

Excuse all mistakes. From your unworthy brother

*Daniel M. Kimes
To Elizabeth and David Beam*

Please give this to Elizabeth As Soon as Convenient.

On 23 September 1865 the long awaited orders were issued: "The Regiment will march tomorrow morning at daylight for Indiana." Colonel Tassin at the same time took the opportunity to praise his men, stating in the same order that "the Colonel Commanding mentions with pride that the Regiment has been repeatedly spoken of in the highest terms of praise by the Major-General Commanding, Corps and Division and intermediate commanders."

The 35th apparently did not leave Victoria on the 24th, however. Josiah's last letter was dated 24 September and in it he indicated that he thought it would be several days or a week before they actually left. Indeed it was not until the 30th of September that the troops were discharged. With specific regard to Josiah, the Muster Out Roll for the 35th Indiana Regiment was signed by Captain Abraham Peters for Company C on 30 September 1865. This roll certified that Josiah Kimes was authorized under War Department orders to retain "one Enfield Rifle Musket and accoutrements."

*Camp near Victoria, Texas
September 24, 1865*

Dear Samantha,

I will try to write a few lines to you this beautiful Sabbath morning to let you know that we are yet here in Texas and alive but my health is not very good. I dont feel sick and have a very good appetite to eat and do eat hearty but I have a severe pain in my legs. I have had it for about three weeks and in the afternoon and at night I cant rest any place. But in the morning while it is cool I feel better and have some ease. I have used different kinds of medicines but have found nothing to do any good yet. I have dug some fish worms and am a going to make some oil of them and try it a while.

Samantha, when I wrote last we expected to get started for home some time this week but we will not get started til about a week from tomorrow or next day. It took the officers of the regt about a week before they got one

roll made out right so you can guess what smart officers they are. But they will get them finished some time this week and we will get started the first of next week or about the 3rd or 4th of October, so it will be the last of October before we will get home. Samantha, I think one month from now (if we are spared as long) will find us at home or near there if we have good luck. The rest of the boys are all well. Judson Miller is here now. He came up yesterday. He is fat and hearty.

Samantha, when this gets home we will not be far behind if we are spared so long and it may not get home as soon as we will so I will not write much. I hope and trust you are all well and hearty yet and that I may find you all alive and well. Samantha, keep in good cheer and I will soon be home again. We will have a long and tiresome trip to make before we get home but if it is the Lord's will, we will get home safe so I will stop writing. From your husband

Josiah Kimes

Chapter 8

Discharge and Return to Indiana 30 September - 28 October 1865

The return trip was arduous, perhaps as difficult for some as any undertaken by the 35th to that date. A large number of the men were in poor shape and many were so weakened that they were unable to walk. They marched from Victoria to Lavacca if they were able and if not went by ambulance. Wagons carried their effects and ambulances carried the sick and disabled and were there to provide for those who might "give out on the journey." The Colonel sent two officers in advance of the troops to obtain transportation across the Gulf of Mexico, under orders which specified that they were to "endeavor to obtain a side-wheeled steamship, if possible, the Colonel Commanding understanding that the propeller now playing between New Orleans and Matagorda Bay are scarcely seaworthy and consequently not fit to carry human beings." The 365 soldiers and 25 officers of the 35th were finally leaving Texas for home.

On 4 October 1865 Company C and four other companies of the 35th went aboard the J. W. Everman, the same steamboat on which Company C had crossed the Gulf of Mexico. Colonel Tassin and the remaining five companies of the 35th boarded another boat and at 6 a.m. on the following day the ships started for Indianola. At about noon they reached Matagorda Bay and there waited for the tide to turn. By 3:30 they were under way and after a rough night reached Galveston in mid-afternoon of the 6th. There they remained until sundown of the following day but by the time they were to start again on the 7th, night had fallen and so they anchored on a sandbar to await daylight. They were under way at 6 a.m. on the 8th and for two days were at sea in rough weather. By daylight of 10 October the Everman had reached a point 40 miles east of Ship Island. It then proceeded slowly up the river for about 20 miles, reaching New Orleans at about 11:30. The steamship carrying the rest of the regiment had already arrived and all

remained aboard their ships until the 12th when they embarked on other ships for the trip up the Mississippi. The boys from Spencerville and their companions of Company C traveled on the steamer Mepleam, destined for Cairo, Illinois. They left the dock late in the afternoon and at 8 miles per hour the journey was slow. On the 13th of October they passed Baton Rouge in mid-morning and late in the afternoon of the 15th arrived at Vicksburg. The weather was noticeably colder at this point. Maintaining the same steady speed, they passed Napoleon late at night on the 15th and Fort Pillow shortly before noon on the 17th. Finally, they reached Cairo at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on 18 October. By 7 p.m. they had boarded a train for home, the officers enjoying good accommodations and the men somewhat poorer ones. They reached Mattoon, Illinois at noon the following day, there changed engines and again got under way. They passed through Terre Haute, Indiana at 9 in the evening on 19 October and on the 20th finally arrived in Indianapolis at 2 p.m. From the train the officers went to the Spencer Hotel and the "boys" marched to the Soldiers Home first and soon after moved to Camp Carrington, their original point of departure.

The Citizens Reception Committee of Indianapolis was still in place to provide a welcome to the returning troops. Flags had been hung out, and a cannon was fired at the Soldiers Home at 8 a.m. on 21 October to notify the ladies of the city that their presence was "expected and solicited in assisting at the dinner tables." At 11 a.m. on 21 October 1865 there was a public reception at the State House Park and immediately after the soldiers of the 35th Indiana Regiment and the 143rd Indiana Regiment, which by chance had arrived at almost the same time, were given a "sumptuous" dinner at the Soldiers Home.

Governor Morton "got up from a sick bed to do himself the pleasure, and the regiments the honor" of seeing them, and thanked them personally for their services. As part of the ceremonies he recounted the history of the 35th Regiment. Then Colonel Tassin "briefly and affectionately parted with his soldiers, who returned to him three cheers." After the 143rd Regiment had been similarly honored, the soldiers formed up and marched to the Soldiers Home for their dinner, to which they reportedly "did full justice." On the 23rd of October there was a ball at the Masonic Hall, which was described by the press as a grand affair, "no doubt appreciated by the boys." Within a few days the men received their final pay and were free at long last to return to their homes.

The 35th Indiana had a complement of almost 400 men when it returned to Indiana from Texas. Many of these soldiers and officers, and those of the 143rd as well, undoubtedly did attend and enjoy the "sumptuous" dinner and the ball organized for them by the Citizens Reception Committee. But what of those who did not attend, in all

likelihood because they could not? There are no known records of the names and numbers of those who attended those events or of how the men, particularly those of Company C, passed their days at Camp Carrington after their arrival.

What is known is that Josiah and Daniel Kimes arrived home on 28 October 1865. Josiah was unable to walk. Daniel, who was five years younger than Josiah, was "so run down and thin in flesh" that his mother cried when she saw how much he had changed from the "well boy who had left to go into the army." Judson Miller, who had been in the hospital from the 23rd of July until some time in September, was well on his way to almost total deafness. Byron Woodcox suffered from painfully swollen and inflamed leg veins, which had first given him trouble in December 1864. And so it went. The "well boys" who had been drafted in the fall of 1864, six months before the end of the war, limped home one year later and were to suffer for their service for years to come. They had seen bullets fly, but had been in actual battle on a very few days. It can only be conjectured what their lives and experiences would have been, had there been no war.

Appendix A

“The Old Priest”

Father Peter Paul Cooney, Chaplain of the 35th

The priest referred to by Josiah Kimes in his letters was Father Peter Paul Cooney, who served as chaplain of the 35th Indiana Regiment from the time it was organized in 1861. He was in fact the only chaplain to serve with that unit. Father Cooney was the embodiment of a good Irish Catholic priest - a most colorful personality, to judge from his own accounts of his acts and service, and a most effective chaplain, to judge from the commendations and descriptions written by ranking officers who knew him and witnessed his work. He converted privates and generals, ministered to the soldiers in camp and to the wounded and dying on the battlefield, and gloried in all that he did. He was “zealous in performance,” for his church, his God, his men and himself, for he was a man of enormous vanity as well as zeal. Had Josiah Kimes been a Catholic, his comments about Father Cooney might well have been as laudatory as, not being one, they were denunciatory.

The “old priest” was in fact only 14 years older than Josiah. He was born in Roscommon, Ireland in 1822 and came to America with his parents when he was five years old. They settled on a farm in southern Michigan and it was there that he spent his early years. In 1851 he enrolled at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana and remained there for three years. He then went to Maryland to study for the priesthood at St. Charles College in Ellicott’s Mills and at St. Mary’s Theological Seminary in Baltimore. After returning to Notre Dame in 1859, he entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross and on 29 June 1859 was ordained. It was in 1861, after he had served for almost two years on the staff of the University of St. Mary of the Lakes in Chicago that he learned that an Irish regiment was being organized in Indiana and that Governor Morton wished to appoint a priest as its chaplain. Having obtained permission from his order, he volunteered for the job and received his commission in early October. He then reported

to Governor Morton in Indianapolis, received his appointment as chaplain of the new regiment and joined that regiment at its camp on the outskirts of the city. On 1 December 1861, when the "1st Irish" was mustered into Federal service as the 35th Indiana Regiment, Father Cooney also was mustered in and began his service as its chaplain.

The 35th Indiana initially was a regiment of men who were primarily of Irish birth or origin. All of its recruits in its early years were volunteers who answered the appeal for men to join an all-Irish unit with the avowed aim of serving with the same courage and valor shown by another Irish regiment, the 69th New York, at the first battle of Bull Run. As there were plenty of Irish in Indiana, the challenge was soon accepted. The ranks of the new regiment were filled and this "1st Irish" regiment was offered for Federal service. That it went in as the 35th, in conformity with other unit designations, was a disappointment to some or all of its members and admirers but no matter: most of the men were Irish, the officers were Irish and the flag which went with them bore not only a symbolic anchor, cross and rising sun but a harp and shamrocks as well. Moreover, the flag bore the words "1st Irish" as well as "35th Regt. Ind. Vol." They were a unit and anxious to see action.

As there was no requirement that he actually go into camp with his regiment, Father Cooney quite understandably did not do so but took up lodgings, very comfortably according to his own account, with a priest who served an Irish parish in Indianapolis. Initially he said mass for the soldiers of the 35th at his host's church and during the week visited them at their camp outside the city. However, these first few weeks were a settling in period and Father Cooney had certain personal concerns to attend to which required that he make several trips back to South Bend.

One of his first concerns was the question of his rank, given the work which lay before him. As he wrote to his brother in mid-October 1861, he had discovered within a very short time that the Irish Catholic boys in his regiment were in fact not very religious. But this was a matter of small concern, he said, as the situation clearly was not all bad: the war could easily be their salvation, especially if they were to die. And the straits they were in with respect to their faith just clarified and reinforced his own role. "The greater part of the Catholic soldiers are young men and even married men who cared little about practicing their religion before they entered the army." It was merely a question of making them see the necessity of preparing for death, after which there would be "little trouble required to bring them to their duty. Hundreds, therefore, may die good Catholics in the Army, where they have zealous chaplains, whereas out of it they would, ten chances to one, be damned." Zeal was the key.

Father Cooney was nothing if not zealous and as the full scope of the challenges and opportunities which were open to him became even

clearer, he saw that he could better serve by becoming chaplain of a brigade rather than a regiment, for a regiment consisted of a thousand men, while a brigade contained five regiments of one thousand men each. Moreover, it was his observation that in most of the Indiana regiments, the Catholics were mixed with the Protestants and thus were "entirely neglected." Therefore, to be able to reach more men, it would be important to become the chaplain of a brigade with rank equivalent to that of Major, rather than chaplain of a regiment with the rank of Captain. Governor Morton apparently agreed with his assessment, as he sent a message to Washington asking that Father Cooney be so named. In anticipation of a favorable reply, Father Cooney wrote to his superiors in South Bend, asking them to send two priests to assist him in his duties, one of whom could be appointed to replace him as chaplain of the 35th.

A second matter which Father Cooney attended to in the early days of his service was the question of his uniform. In mid-December just after his commissioning, the 35th Indiana moved from Indianapolis to Jefferson, Indiana. When the regiment went to Jefferson, Father Cooney went to South Bend, among other things to arrange for six Catholic sisters to return with him when he rejoined the regiment. He needed their assistance in getting himself outfitted in a manner appropriate to his position as chaplain. In a matter of two weeks after returning with him, the sisters apparently had completed their work, as by late December he was able to write that he had a splendid uniform. His appearance, as well as his accoutrements and accommodations, were matters of considerable pride to him and in his letters to his brother he described them in detail so that all at home might know in what high regard he was held and how he lived and looked.

He wore his Roman collar "as before," he wrote, but the rest of his uniform was his own design. The shoulders of his tunic were especially nice, having black velvet epaulets, four inches long by two inches wide, edged in gold lace. In the center of the epaulets there appeared the letters "C" and "N," the first and last letters of the word chaplain, with a Christian cross between them; all were embroidered with gold thread. Gold "chords" went down the sides of the trousers and a gold band ending in tassels went round his hat. The buttons of his coat were "bright black gutta percha" and he wore a blue silk sash "five inches wide with tassels" around his waist. In all, he felt, his outfit was a very appropriate and becoming uniform for a priest, the cross on the epaulets being an especially good touch which set him apart from the non-Catholic chaplains whose shoulder pieces were like those of the regular officers. The Bishop of Louisville had been "very pleased with it" when he saw it.

Then, too, there was the question of acquiring a horse. Father

Cooney was entitled to keep one and would need one for the better performance of his duties. When he returned to his regiment in late December 1861, he took with him a "fine charger," which he immediately took to Louisville to have fitted with military rigging. In his estimation this horse was the finest in the regiment and he was enormously pleased to have him. His care, under arrangements made in South Bend, was to be in the hands of a young man who had become devoted to Father Cooney in Chicago and had later entered the novitiate of the Congregation of Holy Cross in South Bend. He had "begged, on his knees" to be allowed to accompany Father Cooney when Cooney rejoined the regiment and there take care of the horse and of Father Cooney as well. Both the horse and the brother returned with Father Cooney but of the service of the young man nothing further is known.

His personal affairs in order, resplendent in uniform and doubtless astride his "fine charger," Father Cooney rejoined the 35th in late December 1861. By this time it was clear, however, that he was to keep his posting as chaplain of that regiment, with the rank that went with the job. His influence and ministrations, both within and beyond the regiment, were matters which he could expand informally but his position, rank, pay, entitlements, conditions of service and duties as chaplain were covered by Federal law as well as by orders issued by the War Department. And his dream of becoming chaplain of a brigade remained just that as no law ever was enacted establishing such a position.

Provision for the enrollment and compensation of chaplains was made under an Act of Congress passed in July 1861. This act defined the qualifications which were to be met by applicants and specified that those accepted for duty were to be mustered into service in the same manner and received the same pay and leave of absence privileges as were granted to commissioned officers. War Department orders which were then issued in implementation of this act further specified that each regiment would be allowed one chaplain. That chaplain was to be appointed by the regimental commander "on the vote of the field officers and company commanders on duty at the time the appointment was made." He was to be borne on the Field and Staff roll of the regiment and he was to receive the pay and allowances of a captain of cavalry. As Field and Staff officers were mounted, so also was the chaplain, who was allowed one horse. He could draw forage for his horse but if he employed a soldier as his servant, he was required, as were all officers, to deduct from his own monthly pay "the full amount paid to or expended by the Government per month on account of said soldier," against court martial for conviction for having failed to do so. In addition to carrying out his own duties, the chaplain was to report to the colonel commanding the regiment at the end of each quarter on the "moral and

religious condition of the regiment and (make) such suggestions as may conduce to the social happiness and moral improvement of the troops."

After Father Cooney rejoined the 35th, he shared the experiences of that regiment, which soon went into action. In a matter of two years from the date of his enrollment as chaplain, he had been with his regiment at the battles of Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. He had been taken prisoner briefly and had not one but two horses, including his first "fine charger," taken away from him by Confederate troops, with all of their military trappings. He no longer lodged comfortably with fellow priests but lived and traveled with the 35th, albeit with the amenities enjoyed by the officers. His letters no longer spoke of the comforts which he enjoyed and the "kindnesses" which he experienced but of the dangers, hardships and cold. At one point he wrote that he did not have a blanket and had not had his boots off in more than a week. His letters were full of faith, however, nonetheless real for being anecdotal and full of pride in his own role and performance as chaplain.

In January 1863 Father Cooney reported that the 35th Indiana had fought for five days at the battle of Murfreesborough and that on each of these days he had gone before the entire regiment drawn up in line of battle. After offering a prayer and making an Act of Contrition which all repeated with him, he gave them absolution as they knelt in front of him. "The General saw us the first morning and he was so edified with our example, Cooney wrote, "that he sent an order to the Protestant chaplains to do the same." Unable to resist a further comment, Father Cooney then added, "Poor fellows, what could they do." General William Rosecrans was the commanding officer at the time and Father Cooney wrote admiringly of him as the "invincible hero, the glory of the Church of God," a convert to Catholicism who had made "Catholicity respected throughout his entire army by the splendor of his example." He also referred to his conversion and baptism of Major General David S. Stanley of the 4th Army Corps. Father Cooney sent photographs of both to his brother, asking him to place them in silver frames in appropriate juxtaposition with his own photo to make it appear that each was listening to him as he preached. He took pride, too, in mentioning that he had converted a soldier just minutes before his execution by hanging for murder. He had baptised the boy on the scaffold, a feat all the more glorious in that "two Protestant ministers were with him for three days before." Similarly, he mentioned having established a temperance society in the regiment, of which General Stanley was vice president, and otherwise referred with pride to the amount of solace and comfort he was able to provide as part of his daily routine.

Almost invariably, the reports of the officers of the 35th Regiment included at least some mention of the help and comfort provided by the

chaplain under battle conditions. On 5 January 1863 Colonel Mullen prepared his report on the participation of his regiment, the 35th, in the battle of Murfreesborough. He closed his report with these words: "To Father Cooney, our chaplain, too much praise cannot be given. Indifferent as to himself, he was deeply solicitous for the temporal comfort and spiritual welfare of us all. On the field he was cool and indifferent to danger, and in the name of the regiment I thank him for his kindness and laborious attention to the dead and dying." On 22 December 1864 Brigadier General Walter C. Whitaker, commander of the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Division of the 4th Army Corps, forwarded his report on the battle of Nashville. That report contained these words: "Of Father Cooney, chaplain of the Thirty-fifth Indiana, I commend him as an example of the army chaplain: meek, pious, and brave as a lion, he worked with his brave regiment in the valley of the shadow of death, affording the ministrations of his holy religion to the wounded and dying, and giving words of encouragement to his fellow soldiers." These are typical, if flowery, attestations to the selfless work of Father Cooney. His long and good service ended on 16 June 1865, when he was discharged. As one last act, he delayed his return to Indiana until after the men had received their pay. When he finally left, he took with him several thousand dollars which he expressed to the families of the men at their direction.

Father Cooney arrived back in Notre Dame on 4 July 1865. Later that month he "went East in the interests of Notre Dame" and on his return in November became pastor of the Catholic Church in South Bend. There he remained until March 1871. Thereafter, until January 1880, he spent several months of each year on general missionary work, except for six months in 1872 when he served as pastor of a church in Watertown, Wisconsin. From March 1871 until January 1880 he lived at Notre Dame but was back in Watertown from February 1880 until September 1881.

In about 1884 Father Cooney's health began to deteriorate and he did little or no work of any kind. Medical reports of 1885 indicated that he was suffering from inflammation of the stomach, rheumatism and nervous prostration. In 1886, in a statement which he filed with the U.S. Pension Bureau, he stated that he was wholly disabled for manual labor because his digestive system was diseased. He attributed his condition to the exposures and bad food and water to which he had been subjected, specifically in or near McMinnville, Tennessee on 15 June 1862. These had caused dyspepsia, diarrhea and constipation which had continued through the years until he was totally disabled. In a further statement made in early 1889 he stated that his hearing had not been impaired when he entered the army but that his experiences in the army "no doubt caused catarrh and impairment of hearing." By 1888 he was

totally deaf in one ear and a "physical wreck." For him, as for others, the war ended in 1865 but its miseries lingered on for the rest of their lives.

Appendix B

The Boys from Spencerville

Josiah Kimes

Josiah H. Kimes was the son of George Kimes (born 6 January 1812 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania to Peter and Nancy Leggett Kimes) and Sarah Boyer Kimes (born 12 April 1814 in Maryland to David and Elizabeth Cramb Boyer). His paternal grandparents lived and owned land in Lykens Valley, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania and it was there that George Kimes spent his early years before marrying Sarah Boyer on 17 May 1831. Shortly after their marriage, George and Sarah bought land near Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio, where Josiah Kimes was born on 5 June 1836. In 1848 the family sold their land in Ohio and moved to Concord Township, Dekalb County, Indiana. Josiah Kimes lived with his family until his marriage to Samantha Shirts (born 6 January 1843 in Ohio, daughter of George and Elizabeth Miller Shirts Jr. and granddaughter of Christian and Ruth Jones Miller) on 17 November 1859. Three daughters, Cora, Ada and Emma, were born to them in 1861, 1862 and 1863, respectively, and a fourth daughter, Clara, in 1865 while Josiah was still in the army.

Josiah returned to his home in Indiana in late October 1865 a sick man, unable to walk. His complaint was diarrhea, piles, rheumatism and infection of the chest and lungs and he spent a miserable winter. In the spring of 1866 he moved to Bailey, Casnovia Township, Muskegon County, Michigan, hoping to regain his health there in the pine woods. About a year later he moved to Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County, Michigan, so that his children could receive a good education. By this time his family had been increased by the birth of a son, Byron, born in Michigan in 1867.

Josiah Kimes was a farmer by occupation but after the war the state of his health did not permit the hard manual labor demanded by farming. As of 1870 his younger brother William Kimes, then 17 years

old, was living with him and helping with the farm but he clearly had difficulties. His physical condition worsened with advancing years and he needed and felt entitled to a pension for service-related disability. He filed a claim with the Pension Bureau in 1876 but as of mid-1884 his claim was still pending. At the end of June 1884 he sent a letter recounting the steps which he had taken to try to obtain a pension and the physical problems which he had had since the end of the war. His letter included these statements: "For several years after coming out of the army, I was unable to do any work at all and ever since I have not been able to do one fourth the work I could do before going into the army. The amount of pain I have suffered and privations my family have endured no one will know in this world. I am not able to do any work that is hard labor now on account of these disabilities....During the years 76 and 77 I was so bad that I was unable to get out of the house scarcely at all on account of weakness of the chest and when I would get a little better of that and exercise too much I would be taken with diarrhea and piles so that I could not walk and so I have dragged on along these many years. This is a true statement as I am willing to make before God and man. Hoping you will consider yourself in my place and do with my claim as you would like to be done by is all I ask."

A number of persons filed statements in support of his claim but the wheels of bureaucracy moved very slowly. He received a letter from the Pension Bureau dated 2 November 1885 which stated that his claim was awaiting processing and would receive attention as soon as a report had been received from the Adjutant General's office as to the presence or absence from the regiment of Captain Abraham Peters and Private Daniel M. Kimes at the time Josiah Kimes suffered, as alleged, from diarrhea, piles, rheumatism and disease of the lungs. On 3 December Josiah again wrote, voicing the hope that the report of the Adjutant General would be received and that his claim might be settled very soon. "I am in distressed circumstances and have been nearly entirely disabled for the past few years. I was obliged to mortgage our little homestead and I will lose it unless I can get help from some source."

When Josiah finally received his pension, it amounted to \$8.00 per month. In 1890 he filed a declaration in which he stated that he believed that he was entitled to an increase and that his disabilities were growing worse. He asked for a rate of pension proportionate to his disabilities and attached a doctor's certification that for the past two years he had suffered greatly from heart disease due to rheumatism and from prolapsus of the rectum and piles, the result of chronic diarrhea. Because of all of these problems, he had been unable to do manual labor of any kind.

Josiah Kimes died on 18 December 1900 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and he is buried there in the Oakhill Cemetery. On 9 January

1901 his widow Samantha filed a claim for a widow's pension. She received her pension after several persons had sworn, as was required, that to their personal knowledge Josiah and Samantha Kimes had been married, had never been divorced from each other, had lived together as husband and wife continuously until his death, and that Samantha had not remarried in the intervening months between the date of his death and the filing of her claim. Samantha Kimes died on 28 July 1908 and is buried in Grand Rapids with Josiah.

Daniel M. Kimes

Daniel M. Kimes was born on 1 November 1841 near Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio and lived there until 1848 when his parents (George and Sarah Boyer Kimes) sold their land and moved to Concord Township, Dekalb County, Indiana. Daniel Kimes was single when he entered military service and according to statements provided by members of his family after the war, was a strong and healthy young man who was never seriously ill before he went into the army.

Daniel Kimes returned to his home in Indiana in late October 1865 "very much run down and thin in flesh." He remained at home all of that winter and was married there on 14 December 1865 to Almira Abel (born 26 March 1844 at Coburn, Dekalb County, Indiana, the sister of his former comrade in arms, James H. Abel). In March 1866 he was "troubled with catarrh of the head" (acute influenza) and bronchial infection and in the hope that his health might improve, moved to Newago County, Michigan. He remained in Michigan for six years and his first three children were born there. He still suffered from bronchial and throat problems, as well as from chronic diarrhea and stomach and intestinal pain, to such an extent that he was not able to clear the land on which he had settled for farming. In 1871 he made another move, again in the hope of regaining his health, this time to Beaver City, Nebraska, where he lived for 12 years, until 1883. Thereafter he made a series of moves, spending one year in McMinnville, Tennessee (1883-1884), five years in Geneva, Ohio (1884-1889), 17 years in Ness City, Kansas (1889-1907) and 16 years in Kinsley, Edwards County, Kansas (1907-1922). He had two more children, born in 1874 and 1883.

Daniel Kimes filed a claim for a pension, in connection with which his brother Josiah submitted affidavits on his behalf in 1888, 1894, 1895 and 1899. Josiah stated in these that to his knowledge Daniel Kimes had remained well and fit for duty until the last of May or first of June 1865, when he became sick at Nashville, Tennessee with diarrhea and inflammation of the stomach and bowels. The surgeon of the regiment had wanted to take him to the hospital and Daniel had refused

to go. Josiah then went to the surgeon and "told him that we would care for my brother and that I would do the duty assigned to him, if the doctor would only allow Daniel to remain and be treated in quarters." Further, he said, "I call to mind that James H. Abel and myself, by the directions of the surgeon, went and got slippery elm bark to put in water for a drink for my brother to take for the trouble of his bowels." As nearly as he could remember, Daniel was "laid up with this inflammation" for about two weeks and was not fit for duty at the time the regiment left Nashville for New Orleans. On the trip down the Mississippi River, Daniel then took a severe cold as a result of exposure and sleeping on the deck of the riverboat. This cold "seemed to hang right to him," settling in the head and throat and resulting in catarrh of the head and bronchial trouble of the throat. He had all of these ailments while he was in Texas and was still suffering from them at the time of discharge from the army. "He was not the man when he came home that he was when we went into the army."

In his last communication with the U S Pension Bureau, filed when he was 79 years old, Daniel Kimes had this to say: "I have a very bad and painful cancer on my left hand. Because of the pain and the uselessness of this hand, I am not able to dress nor undress myself, nor to feed or take care of myself. I am unable to sleep much of the time and my hand must be dressed often, at times every two hours." He died at Kinsley, Kansas on 23 December 1922 at the age of 81. Almira Kimes died on 15 August 1926 at Sublette, Kansas and is buried with her husband Daniel Kimes at Kinsley.

Judson S. Miller

Judson S. Miller was born on 15 January 1844 at Ashland, Richland County, Ohio. He was the son of Christian Miller (born 14 August 1798 in Pennsylvania) and Ruth Jones Miller (born 6 October 1798 in Pennsylvania, daughter of Ezekiel Jones), and he was the uncle of Josiah Kimes' wife Samantha. His parents moved to Concord Township, Dekalb County, Indiana between 1844 and 1850 and he was still living at home when he was drafted into the army in late 1864. According to family lore, he added one year to his actual age in statements which he made at the time of his enlistment, and was a "well and hearty young man" who never had a serious illness before the war and certainly was not hard of hearing.

When he returned to Indiana in October 1865 Judson Miller again lived with his parents and left Indiana with them when they moved to Ashland Township, Newago County, Michigan in early December 1866. He bought land and lived there or in Bailey, Casnovia Township, Muskegon County, Michigan for the rest of his life. On 5 August 1866

he married Angeline Waters and after her death in 1871, married Martha A. Johnson on 22 February 1874. All of his four children were born in Michigan.

When he filed a claim to a pension in 1883, Judson Miller listed all of the illnesses and medical problems he remembered having while in the army. These included fever, severe diarrhea, swellings of his ankles and loss of hearing. In an amended statement which he submitted at a later date, he made it clear that it had never been his intention to apply for a pension on the basis of "camp diarrhea," which had not bothered him after he returned home, and that the lumps and swellings on his ankles, which had been caused by "hard marching and carrying heavy weights over the stone pike roads," also had not bothered him after the war. However, his deafness was another matter and he had this to say about it: "My hearing was all right up to the battle before Nashville, Tennessee sometime about the middle of December 1864. I know that we were stationed close to the artillery and the firing caused a whining sound in my head and this continued right along, though I could hear apparently as well as ever. During the summer of 1865, I think it was along about July of that year, we left New Orleans, Louisiana for Texas, on the steamer J. W. Everman. I had been sick for some time before we started with the chronic diarrhea and as I remember the second day after we went aboard the boat, I was taken with a fever. I remember that the doctors said it was a bilious fever. I remained very sick all the time I was on the voyage from New Orleans, Louisiana to Port Lavacca, Texas. After we landed I was sent with the others to an old house where we remained two days without any care or attendance. We had understood that there was a doctor ordered to remain and look after us but we learned afterward that this doctor went off to Indianola and for some reason did not return. After we had been in the old house two days the Provost Marshal sent some ambulances after us and took us to the 2nd or 3rd Division Hospital of the 4th Corps. I think I was sent to hospital some time in September 1865. While in hospital there commenced a roaring in my head and I was hard of hearing. It seemed as though my head was being shut up. My hearing in my right ear gradually grew better for a while but my hearing in my left ear kept on getting worse until now I am totally deaf on that side and for a good many years the hearing in my right ear has been failing me so that now the deafness in that ear is very severe. I had no external treatment for my deafness while in the service. I remember the doctors in the hospital told me that my deafness, they thought, was only temporary and that it would soon wear off but it never did."

As his deafness increased, Judson tried to obtain treatment but the local doctors he consulted were not able to help him. As for his own efforts, he "used rattlesnake oil and other oils but received no benefit."

In his last years he was all but totally deaf and to at least one great great niece, he was an awesome figure with a large ear trumpet into which those who wished to communicate had to shout. He was granted a pension on the basis of his claimed disability but on 16 January 1924 he wrote one last letter to the Pension Bureau for the purpose of ensuring that his wife would receive her widow's pension after his death. He was anticipating the fact that she would be asked to prove that she was his widow, that there was a record of their marriage, that neither of them had been divorced or had remarried, etc. His letter read as follows: "Dear Sir, I am nearing my journey's end and I want to assist my wife in helping her get her pension when I am gone. There is 4 or 5 that attended our wedding Feb 22, 1874. They are getting old. Cant I get their affidavits now? If so send me some blanks. I have a marriage certificate recorded in the Pension Department I sent years ago. I was married twice. My first wife died in Ashland Twp, Newago, Michigan in 1871. Must I provide that? I know few persons that was at (her) funeral, 2 of my nephews then 14 years old, 3 old ladies, one going on 85. There is nothing better than getting ready to die. I have been 57 years and that was none too soon as I was 80 years old yesterday. Respectfully yours, Judson S. Miller. Please send blanks."

Judson Miller died on 2 February 1924 in Muskegon County, Michigan, cause of death cerebral hemorrhage.

Andrew J. Kimes

Andrew J. Kimes was born on 2 March 1845 near Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. He was the son of George and Sarah Boyer Kimes and a younger brother of Josiah and Daniel. He enlisted in the army as a private on or about 18 November 1863 at Spencerville, Dekalb County, Indiana and served in Co. F, 129th Indiana Regiment-Infantry (2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 23rd Army Corps). He was discharged at Charlotte, North Carolina on 29 August 1865. In March 1866 he moved to Newago County, Michigan and was married there to Cordelia Alton on 25 December 1866, in a ceremony performed by Benjamin Alton, Justice of the Peace. Eight children were born to him in Michigan between 1867 and 1886. In 1888 he moved to Duncan Township, Houghton County, Michigan and some time later moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Pension papers which he filed in 1895, at age 54, stated that he suffered from catarrh of the stomach and heart, liver disease, bleeding piles and rheumatism of the left arm and shoulder. He also had an old wound, not service-related, in the left knee which was described in affidavits submitted by two of his brothers, William H. Kimes and George W. Kimes. These indicated that sometime between 1853 and 1857, while the three brothers were chopping down a tree, an ax

wielded by George Kimes glanced off the tree and struck Andrew in the knee, leaving him lame or at least weak in that knee. Andrew Kimes, widower, died on 24 November 1929, at the U.S. Veterans Hospital in Boise, Idaho at age 83, of auricular fibrillation. His son, Claire Kimes of Spirit Lake, Idaho, served as administrator of his estate. He had seven living children at the time of his death.

James H. Abel

James H. Abel was born on 9 February 1829 in Trumbull County, Ohio and thus was 35 years old when he went into the army. His father (George H. Abel, born in 1808 also in Trumbull County, Ohio) had moved to Indiana in 1838 and had settled on 180 acres of land in Concord Township, Dekalb County. James Abel was a farmer and when he went into the army, he left behind a wife, Abigail (nee Rutven), whom he had married on 14 May 1848 in Dekalb County, and three children.

Abel served in two different regiments during the Civil War. He served first in Company F of the 44th Indiana Regiment-Infantry, enlisting in September 1861 as a sound man with no physical defects, according to the testimony of David Andress, his bunkmate in that regiment. His service with that regiment lasted only until June 1862, however, according to the affidavit of one Samuel G. Flint. Flint stated that he had happened to see James Abel at that time while visiting a hospital in Evansville, Indiana. Abel was hospitalized there and "his nervous system seemed badly shattered and his general appearance that of a person suffering from a low grade fever." He was quite deaf and because of soreness in his back, had trouble sitting up. Flint arranged for him to be furloughed to his home where his family could take care of him, and he remained there for two years. According to his own statement, Abel had contracted typhoid fever while at Shiloh, Tennessee in April 1862 and this had resulted in disease of the bladder and kidneys, in lameness and in "general disarrangement of his system." He did no hard labor from the time of his return home in 1862 until 1864.

Abel's second term of service was with the 35th Indiana Regiment. While serving with this unit, according to an affidavit submitted by Byron A. Woodcox in support of Abel's pension claim, Abel had been under the surgeon's care a number of times and had performed duty a great many times when he should have been on the sick list. Further, according to this statement, Abel had been under the surgeon's care in the winter of 1865 when the regiment was at Huntsville, Alabama, again in May 1865 when they were at Nashville, and in August 1865 when they were at Green lake, Texas. When he returned to Indiana at the end of 1865, he was unable to do manual labor of any kind. He was granted a pension on the basis of his claim that he suffered from chronic and

incurable nephritis (also known as Bright's disease), as well as muscular rheumatism, spinal irritation and nervous debility as a result of having had typhoid fever. To the end of his life he continued to be extremely lame and, with his other conditions, was hardly able to walk, at times being almost helpless. He died on 17 May 1907 at age 78.

Byron A. Woodcox

Byron A. Woodcox was born in 1843 in Indiana. He was the son of Cornelius Woodcox (born c.1801 in Pennsylvania) and Polly Woodcox (born c.1814 in Ohio). He was 21 and single when he went into the army in the fall of 1864 and was a healthy young man. His marriage to Emily or Emma Shirts (born 4 September 1846 in Ohio, sister of Samantha Shirts Kimes) took place after the war, on 8 January 1866 in Dekalb County, Indiana.

When he returned to Indiana in October 1865, Byron Woodcox was troubled by chronic diarrhea, piles and varicose veins but his claim to a pension for service-related disability was based primarily on leg problems. In support of his claim, Captain Abraham Peters, who had been an officer in the 35th Indiana Regiment, stated that Byron Woodcox had complained of pain in his right leg just after the battle of Nashville in the fall of 1864. After examining the leg and finding it very much swollen and the veins ruptured, Captain Peters had had Woodcox placed in an ambulance and cared for. Although Woodcox had stayed with the regiment, he did no drilling or company duty all that winter and in the spring of 1865 Peters had him detailed to General Kimball's headquarters for light duty as guard. He remained there until he was mustered out of the service in September 1865. It was Peters' belief that the soldier's condition had been caused by hard marching between Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee in December 1864. After the war, according to statements made by Peters, by his former comrade in arms James H Abel, and by Phyletus A Shirts (brother of Emily Shirts Woodcox and Samantha Shirts Kimes), Woodcox continued to be lame and in his last years his leg was painful, inflamed and badly ruptured. He was unable to do any manual labor at the end of his life and according to the testimony of his wife, was confined to his room and required constant care. She asked for an increase in the amount of his pension, as that pension was their sole means of support.

Byron H Woodcox died on 3 September 1898 of "exhaustion, due to chronic diarrhea, piles and vericose veins" and is buried near Spencerville in Dekalb County, Indiana. He was 58 years old at the time of his death.

John Bloomfield

John Bloomfield enrolled in the army as a substitute. He was mustered in on 25 October 1864 and served with the 35th Indiana Regiment until 20 June 1865, when he deserted. The 35th Indiana at that time was aboard the U S S Cora en route to New Orleans and on that day made a brief stop at Cairo, Illinois, where a number of soldiers left the ship.

Isaac Farver

Isaac Farver was born in 1827, presumably in Ohio. He was married in Crawford County, Ohio on 30 July 1851 to Mary Ann Myers and moved to Dekalb County, Indiana at a later date. A shoemaker and farmer by occupation, he was drafted in September 1864 in the 10th District of Indiana, was mustered into the army on 6 October 1864 at Kendalville, Dekalb County and served with the 35th Indiana Regiment. After being mustered out on 30 September 1865 at Victoria, Texas, he returned to Indiana, where he again resided in the Spencerville area. He died in Auburn on 30 September 1893.

Daniel Faunce

Daniel Faunce was born in 1840 in Ohio, the son of Andrew and Zuerelia Coburn Faunce, and was a farmer by occupation. He was married on 7 August 1862 by the Reverend James Hadsell, the first minister of the Disciples of Christ Church in Dekalb County, Indiana, to Samantha L Alton. Daniel Faunce was drafted in September 1864 in the 10th District of Indiana and was mustered into the army on 3 October 1864. He was assigned to Co. A of the 13th Indiana Regiment but through an error served with the 35th Indiana Regiment from the beginning of his service until late May 1865 when he was sent back to the 13th. He was mustered out on 5 September 1865 and returned to Indiana. After the war he moved to Michigan and died there at Fremont, Newago County on 29 April 1910 (aged 70 years, 1 month, 4 days).

Israel Horn

Israel Horn, son of Andrew Horn, was born on 8 October 1840 in Ashland County, Ohio. He moved to Dekalb County, Indiana at a later date and was married to Rachel M Wyatt in Jackson Township on 22 September 1864. He was drafted in the 10th District of Indiana in September 1864, was mustered into service on 6 October 1864 and served with the 35th Indiana Regiment. According to the pension claim

which he submitted later to the U S Pension Bureau, he was on guard duty at a plantation in July 1865 when the regiment was ordered to Texas. He was not relieved but was ordered to join the officer, Lt. Flynn, who had charge of the brigade stock, and came down with fever the fourth day after joining that officer. The Surgeon General's office verified this claim, indicating that he had been hospitalized at Barracks General Hospital in New Orleans with intermittent fever during July and August 1865 and had been transferred to General Hospital at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri on 5 September 1865. On 29 September 1865 he was discharged from service as unfit for duty by reason of chronic gastritis and general debility. Between 1883 and 1894 affidavits in support of his claim were filed by Isaac Farver, James H. Abel, Byron A. Woodcox, David A. Miller and Joseph Koch, all former comrades in Co C of the 35th Indiana Regiment. All of these reiterated that Horn had been hospitalized in New Orleans as stated and that they did not see him again until after all had returned to Indiana. At that time he was not well and was unable to do manual labor for a year after the war. He died on 17 March 1920 in Dekalb County, four years after the death of his wife. He left one daughter, Mintie May Rhodes, born 3 August 1875.

Henry M. Horner

Henry M. Horner was born on 19 January 1834. On 2 February 1860 he married Martha Wade at Newville, Dekalb County, Indiana in a service conducted by the Reverend James Hadsell of the Disciples of Christ Church. He was drafted in the 10th District, Dekalb County on 19 September 1864 and was mustered out on 30 September 1865 at Victoria, Texas. After the war he left the Spencerville area (where his first two children had been born in 1864 and 1866) and lived first in Hamilton, Steuben County, Indiana (where a third child was born in 1867) and then in Riley County, Kansas (where a fourth child was born in 1875). As of 1904 he was living at Green, Clay County, Kansas, and in that year submitted a claim to the U. S. Pension Bureau. In it he stated that he was suffering from numerous service-related problems: piles, sciatic rheumatism, bronchial problems and a kidney condition. He died in Green, Kansas on 27 January 1906.

Richard S. Kester

Richard S. Kester was born on 5 May 1847 at or near Butler Station, Dekalb County, Indiana. He was mustered into service on 9 November 1864 and served as a substitute. His discharge took place at Victoria, Texas on 30 September 1865. He married twice. His first wife, Elizabeth Barnhart, died on 2 May 1915 and he subsequently married

Dora J. Longwell. At the time he filed an application with the U S Pension Bureau he stated that he was suffering from rheumatism, dyspepsia and "camp diarrhea." He died on 1 May 1925 at Wauseon, Fulton County, Ohio.

Henry J. Kline

Henry J. Kline was born on 11 December 1939 in Greenfield Township, Huron County, Ohio. On 12 September 1862 he married Elvira Harding and a daughter, Arvesta Kline, was born of this marriage. Elvira Kline died in April 1872 at Corunna, Indiana and on 20 December 1874 Henry Kline married Alvira Lorinda Reynolds at Sturgis, Michigan. A carpenter by trade, he was living at Corunna, Indiana as of 10 September 1864 when he enlisted and was sent first to Indianapolis and then to join the 35th Indiana Regiment at Huntsville, Alabama. From 6 to 13 March 1865 he was hospitalized at Huntsville for "typho-malaria fever" and from 13 to 31 March 1865 he was hospitalized at Nashville Tennessee for typhoid fever. From 31 March to 22 April 1865 he was convalescent and in May 1865 returned to duty with his regiment. He was discharged in June 1865 at Nashville. He was never granted a pension, as he was carried on the descriptive list as having deserted from Co C, 35th Indiana Regiment, on 17 June 1865 and thus never actually discharged. Kline insisted that because of a mistake in the list he had never received a discharge at the time he was mustered out of the service.

Joseph Koch

Joseph Koch was born on 9 July 1833 in Ashland County, Ohio. His father had come to America from Germany when he was 16 years of age and had moved to Dekalb County in 1852. Joseph Koch married Mary Ann Jenkins on 17 April 1853 in Dekalb County and had seven children at the time he entered the army; three more were born after the war. He was drafted in the 10th District, Dekalb County in September 1864 and was mustered into the army on 6 October 1864. He was then assigned to Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment and served with that unit until he was mustered out on 30 September 1865 at Victoria, Texas. The claim which he filed with the U. S. Pension Bureau was supported by affidavits submitted between 1876 and 1891 by his former comrades in arms in Co. C: James H. Abel, Isaac Farver, David A. Miller, Richard S. Kester and Captain Abraham Peters. All supported his testimony that at or near Nashville, Tennessee in early December 1864, Koch had strained himself while building breastworks: in doing some heavy lifting he had injured his back and because of his injury had been unfit for duty.

He had also been treated for chronic diarrhea, which continued to plague him to the time of his discharge and in later years as well. He died on 24 December 1917 and is buried in the St Joseph Cemetery, near Spencerville in Dekalb County, Indiana.

John Leighty

John Leighty was a farmer, born in Pennsylvania in about 1812. He was living in Concord Township, Dekalb County, Indiana as of 1850 but may have arrived there only a year or so earlier. The Federal census of 1850 indicated that his wife Elizabeth was born in Pennsylvania in about 1813, as were his eight children, who ranged in age from 1 to 15 years. He was drafted in the 10th District, Dekalb County in September 1864 and was mustered into service on 6 October 1864. He was assigned to Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment and was killed on 22 November 1864 while serving with that unit at Pulaski, Tennessee. He died at the field hospital there of "cerebro spinal."

David A. Miller

David A. Miller was born in 1841. He was drafted in the 10th District, Dekalb County, Indiana in September 1864 and was mustered into service on 6 October 1864. He was assigned to Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment and served with that regiment until his discharge on 30 September 1865 at Victoria, Texas. He was married to Arminda Hildebrand on 19 January 1868 in Dekalb County and had two children, Dora and William, born in 1869 and 1876 respectively. The claim which he filed with the U.S. Pension Bureau stated that he suffered from chronic diarrhea, rheumatism and resulting heart trouble. An affidavit signed by Capt. Abraham Peters, formerly of the 35th Indiana Regiment, in 1889 stated that Miller had contracted rheumatism through exposure in December 1864, and chronic diarrhea through exposure and bad water while at Green Lake, Texas in August 1865. Further affidavits attesting to the ailments described by Peters were provided by James Abel and Joseph Koch, also former comrades in the 35th Indiana. He died on 6 April 1909 and is buried in the St Joseph Cemetery, near Spencerville, Dekalb County, Indiana.

William Monroe

William Monroe was mustered into the army on 9 November 1864 and served as a substitute. He was assigned to Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment and was serving with that unit when he was hospitalized for pneumonia at the Cumberland General Hospital in Nashville in

December 1864. There appears to be some confusion in the records as to whether he received his discharge, for disability, in May 1864 or continued service with his regiment until the latter was discharged at Victoria, Texas on 30 September 1865. Monroe was married when he entered the army and he had three children, Julia Lucretia, Michael Freeman and Mary Jane, born in 1861, 1866 and 1868 respectively. He died on 25 April 1869 in Concord Township, Dekalb County, Indiana. His widow, Matilda, married Henry Milton in 1874.

Edward Rupert

Edward Rupert, born c.1835-1840, enlisted in the army on 21 November 1863, in the 10th District of Indiana and was mustered into service on 11 January 1864. He served in Co. F of the 129th Indiana Regiment-Infantry, which saw service as part of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 23rd Army Corps. He was killed at the Battle of Franklin on 30 November 1864. On 28 March 1858 he had married Elizabeth Beavers, born 1840, and at his death left his widow and two children, William H. Rupert, born 4 June 1859, and Sarah S. Rupert, born 4 May 1862. In 1864 Elizabeth Rupert married Lemuel B. Farver, veteran of Co. A of the 100th Indiana Regiment and possibly a brother of Isaac Farver of the 35th Indiana Regiment.

Charles W. Widney

Charles W. Widney, son of Samuel Widney, was born on 18 December 1825 in Concord, Franklin County, Ohio. He was drafted on 6 October 1864 in the 10th District of Indiana and served with Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment. The Morning Reports of the 35th indicated that as of 25 November 1864 C. W. Widny was "sick, Jefferson Barracks" and the same entry was made on reports for the months of March and April 1865. He apparently was transferred to Indiana at some point and was discharged on 26 May 1865 at Madison Indiana Hospital. After his discharge he lived in Dekalb County and in his application for a pension he claimed permanent disability from heart disease which had caused vertigo and kidney disease, and rheumatism and lung disease. He died on 8 July 1913, leaving no widow and no children.

Jacob Yarnell

Jacob Yarnell was born in about 1839, probably in Pennsylvania. On 6 October 1861 he married Cordelia J. Woodcox, sister of Byron A. Woodcox, in Dekalb County, Indiana and was living there, occupied as a farmer, when he was drafted in September 1864. He was mustered into

the army on 6 October 1864 and was assigned to Co. C of the 35th Indiana Regiment. He became ill in August 1865 and died in the Division Hospital at Victoria, Texas on 7 September 1865. He was buried at that place. He left a widow and two daughters, one born in 1862 and a second born after he had left for service, in March 1865.

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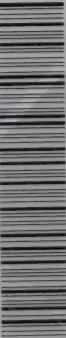


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